

سوريا من الامم



Friday November 1 1996

Table with exchange rates for various countries including Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Australia, etc.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

46,689

Friday News

Peter York on the end of one nation television

Leonard Cohen and life in revolutionary Cuba

Pages 4/5

With European weather



Details of the millennium dome, as tall as Nelson's Column and big enough to hold 13 Albert halls, were unveiled yesterday. The structure will be the centrepiece of the celebrations in Greenwich, south-east London

Ridings closes as control is lost

Main article about the Ridings education review, mentioning Martin Walsby and Donald Macleod.

Dole's finale: rock around the clock

Jonathan Freedland in Miami. The embattled United States Republican presidential candidate, Bob Dole, launched a dramatic last push for the White House yesterday...



Bob Dole kicks off his punishing tour in Florida

'The last time I fought round the clock for my country was in 1945 in Italy. Beginning at noon I will once again fight for America's future. From Ohio to the blue grass of Kentucky, I'll give it all I've got'

Republican candidate Bob Dole would now shift from big, set-piece rallies to "spontaneous, less structured events" - appearing at bakeries and police precincts in the middle of the night as part of a highly flexible guerrilla campaign for the presidency...

lieve in keeping the White House above partisan politics and away from these puny disputes we're seeing," he said, implicitly referring to brewing controversies over donations to the Democratic Party from people with ties to Indonesia, Taiwan and other foreign interests.

Rushdie snubs prize after Danes' ban

'It is vital not to allow governments to behave in such a cowardly way' - Richard Morrison-Taylor. SALMAN Rushdie has not been short of literary prizes. The Booker, the Booker of Bookers, the Whitbread Novel award, an award from the Writers' Guild of Great Britain, a French award for best foreign book...

man of the Arts Council - comes seven years after Iran issued a fatwa on Mr Rushdie after the publication of The Satanic Verses. He has even visited Denmark many times since, once at the invitation of the Danish government. Just two days ago, he gave readings to 1,500 people in Vienna at a meeting which had been heavily publicised. It was vital, he said yesterday, not to allow governments to behave in such a "craven and cowardly way".



Inside Britain

World News

Finance

Sport

Comment and Letters, 8

Obituaries, 10

Friday Review

Crossword 45

Radio 16; TV 16; Weather 16

The Guardian International & The Observer Travel Bag advertisement with image of a travel bag.

Subscription form for The Guardian International/Observer Travel Bag, including fields for name, address, and payment details.



Sketch

Ghouls spook the Great Pumpkin



Simon Hoggart

HALLOWE'EN: the night when ghouls and ogres stalk the land, gnashing their teeth, rattling their chains and causing good citizens to scurry home and lock themselves indoors. But then the House of Commons is like that most of the time...

congratulate successful innovation in Yorkshire business. "said the Pumpkin, "and undoubtedly many of them have been very successful." Mr Blair asked about the beef ban. He has now established a fixed pattern for his three questions.

Police officers who rescued victims of football disaster win battle for compensation in appeal court

Fury at Hillsborough ruling



Phil Hammond, secretary of the families support group, with a picture of his dead son Philip

'There's one rule for police and another for fans'

SEVEN years after the Hillsborough disaster, Phil Hammond is still haunted by unanswered questions surrounding the death of his 14-year-old son, Philip junior.

event put the Appeal Court's decision in perspective: "The police might have a hard job, but it was twice as hard for us to identify our children."

Clara Dyer Legal Correspondent

FOUR police officers who were mentally traumatised rescuing victims of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster won their battle for compensation in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

on the terraces have received a total of £1.2 million agreed damages from insurers for South Yorkshire police, Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, and the club's engineers.

First night

Indelible image given savage twist

Michael Billington

Happy Days Almeida Theatre HERE she is again: Beckett's Winnie in Happy Days buried first up to her neck and then her waist in earth. It is one of the indelible images of modern theatre...

sprawls on the earthen mound unavailingly trying to reach her, you sense the impossibility of real contact. Some productions of Happy Days stress Winnie's cheerfulness in adversity...

Europe heads for pensions crisis

MPs claim British contributions will top up deficits in other EU states

Table with 2 columns: Country, Pension gap as % of GDP. Germany: 3.4, France: 3.3, Italy: 2.5, Sweden: 1.8, UK: 1.8.

a "no bail-out" clause in the Maastricht Treaty prevents any country subsidising another's debt, a claim reinforced by Germany's proposed "stability pact" against reckless spending.

Scientists track down outbreak of poisoning to Israeli snack

SCIENTISTS in north London used a combination of gut feelings and quick thinking to crush an international outbreak of food poisoning.

the US hunted down an agent that was spreading sickness abroad. They homed in on a kosher snack imported from Israel.

Piper pays for his tune

THE defiant lone bagpiper of Hampstead Heath got scant sympathy from the College of Piping north of the border last night after he was fined £45 for disrupting the "quiet enjoyment" of north London's public.

Ridings closes in near-riot

continued from page 1 first of its kind since 1976, when the Inner London Education Authority shut William Tyndale primary school to regain control.

Radio Times advertisement: Very tasty cooked over hot coals. Beetles are good for your health, good for your sex life and good company. To find out why, beetle along to your newsagent and get Radio Times on sale now.

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

Historic papers released



Patrick Street in Cork City in the 1920s, when British intelligence mounted a doomed surveillance operation to infiltrate the republican movement after the 1916 Easter Rising

Irish brogue foiled British intelligence

Vast payments to informers failed to thwart the rebels, writes Richard Norton-Taylor

BRITISH intelligence failed miserably in its attempts to infiltrate the Irish republican movement after the 1916 uprising because its officers could not understand the broad accents of the Irish "peasantry", according to documents released yesterday.



The Irish peace delegation (pictured left) en route for England in 1921, including Sinn Fein founder Arthur Griffith (far left) and Eamonn de Valera (centre), and signatures on the peace charter

Surveillance equipment, he wrote, produced unsatisfactory results, partly because "microphones of English manufacture seem ill-adapted to the Irish brogue".

The effort largely came to nothing partly because of effective counter measures by the rebel leaders, including ruthless action against those suspected of spying for Britain.

Outside Northern Ireland, he wrote, "the Protestant both layman and clergy, did little to assist the forces of the Crown", while the majority of loyalists remained "inarticulate".

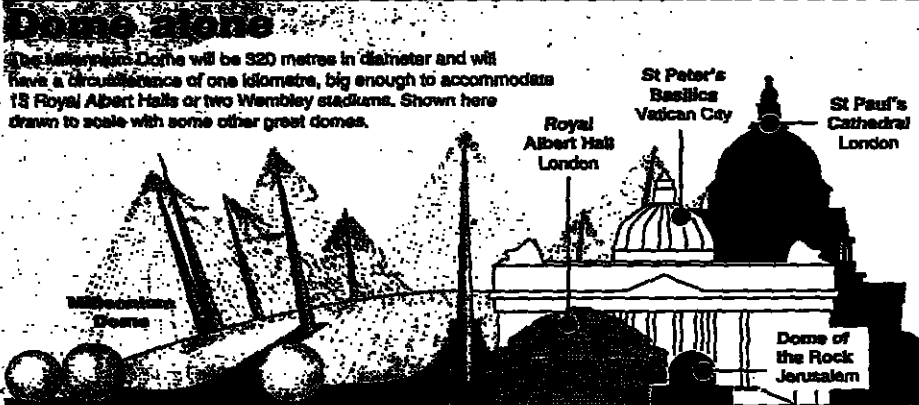
Another problem was that the Irish were "of an intensely inquisitive nature". He wrote: "It has been said that no European can fathom the mind of an Oriental, and it might equally be said that no Englishman can fully grasp the inner psychology of the Irish rebel character."

Police Special Branch officers, however, regularly attended meetings of republican leaders, including Eamonn de Valera, Arthur Griffith, the founder of Sinn Fein, and Countess Markievicz, who were arrested and deported to England in 1918. The papers make clear that British intelligence was most concerned about their apparently pro-German sentiments, although they include a passage from a speech in August 1917 by Griffith, who said: "The difference between [Sinn Fein] and parliamentarians was that one asked the people to trust in themselves, and the other asked them to trust in the British Parliament." Winter castigated the British Government for declaring an amnesty after the 1916 Easter Rising, and regretted the lack of tougher action in earlier years. But he added: "Repression could have broken the spirit of revolt but it is not a final solution to the Irish problem which, from its childhood days, seven hundred years ago, has grown into a hoary-headed, intolerable monster."

World's biggest dome marks millennium

Don Gleister Arts Correspondent

PLANS for the centrepiece of the millennium celebrations, a huge dome described by one of its architects as a "friendly, flexible carcass", were unveiled yesterday, ending months of speculation. Details of the project, the largest domed structure of its kind in the world, were revealed as the Millennium Exhibition operating committee applied for planning permission to build on the 130-acre Greenwich Peninsula site in south-east London. The dome, designed by architects the Richard Rogers Partnership, will be 50 metres high, matching Nelson's Column, and 330 metres in diameter — big enough to hold two Wembley stadiums or 18 Albert Halls.



The structure will consist of a strengthened industrial fabric, similar to PVC, stretched between a dozen 100 metre high steel masts. This will provide an all-weather cover for 22 segments, each containing a separate exhibition space devoted to a particular aspect of time. Barry Hartop, chief executive of the Millennium Exhibition, said: "Today is a milestone. We've come out and said this is what the Millennium Exhibition will look like. It's a significant statement to the world that there is pride in the past and the future and in the achievements of the UK. The scale of the building establishes this as a unique world landmark."

Organisers hope the scheme will receive planning permission by the end of January, paving the way for a detailed announcement of plans for the interior of the exhibition, which is being designed by the Hargrett group. Nick Raynsford, Labour MP for Greenwich, said: "The main structure is reminiscent of the Dome of Discovery in the Festival of Britain in 1951. The concept is very attractive and the design solutions are very appropriate for the setting. It will be a major crowd-puller."

The scheme will create 2,000 jobs for the construction period, followed by 5,000 jobs once the exhibition opens. It will be served by the extension to the Jubilee underground line, and a new riverboat service. The exhibition will be able to receive 100,000 visitors a day; at a peak rate of 35,000 an hour. Organisers claimed the planning application would involve the largest consultation exercise in London since Heathrow airport was built. Seven thousand leaflets will be sent to local residents this week, with a further 80,000 over the next month. A public exhibition opens next week. Yesterday's announcement was the first piece of good news for the organisers since Greenwich was chosen as the exhibition site. Nevertheless, doubts still surround the scheme. Partnership funding has yet to be found for the £350 million exhibition — £200 million has been pledged by the Millennium Commission, but £150 million from the private sector is still being sought. A leaked letter to the Millennium Commission suggested costs may reach £200 million. Mr Hartop, who has been seconded on a three-month contract from the Welsh Development Office to oversee the project, insisted yesterday "the project will go ahead. It will open on 31 December, 1999". He revealed a further five companies had expressed an interest in participating. It is unclear what will become of the site after the year-long celebrations. The structure, its designers say, will last for at least a decade, but there are no firm plans for its use.

Beef deal may lift ban from Ulster first

Ministers accept regional approach

John Palmer in Brussels and Michael White

THE Government is on the verge of an agreement with the European Union under which the beef ban will be lifted in Northern Ireland before it is eased elsewhere. Brussels sources signalled last night. Ministers now accept that the only way a start can be made on lifting the ban on British beef, imposed because of the link between BSE and the human disease Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, is to accept that it will continue in some regions longer than others. Whitehall officials stressed last night they are still seeking a "UK-wide solution". But European Commission sources indicated that the Ministry of Agriculture is finalising proposals for the identification of BSE-free herds which are likely to be sent in the next few days to the commission for veterinary and scientific approval. The Commission is confident it will then get the backing of the other 14 EU countries to remove the ban in Northern Ireland. "The indications we have from the [EU] Irish presidency is that the other governments would be ready to approve an agreement which led to the ban being lifted first in Northern Ireland," the commission source said. The province has a low incidence of BSE and a sophisticated computer identity system for all cattle, and it would be relatively easy to control cattle and beef movements from elsewhere in the UK. With the EU summit in Dublin six weeks away, the

Irish government has made no secret that it would back an agreement lifting the ban in the north. A deal could boost flagging support for John Major among the nine Ulster Unionist MPs. If a deal favouring Ulster is struck it will anger Scottish farmers who have less BSE than England's. That could pose a problem for the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, who has been impatient with the negotiating tactics of Douglas Hoeg, the Agriculture Minister. Until now the Government has set its face against any deal which would mean regional lifting of the ban. While it insists on an agreement which specifies measures to certify herds clear of BSE throughout the UK, in practice only Northern Ireland will meet all the conditions in the short term — not least because the Irish Sea impedes easy cattle movement. Other governments will want to be satisfied that a method of identifying BSE-free herds is in place, as well as effective controls on the movement of animals within the country. That will take much longer in England, which has by far the heaviest incidence of BSE — 180,000 compared with 10,000 in Northern Ireland. According to commission sources, only about 1,500 cattle would have to be culled in Northern Ireland to fulfil the terms of the agreement reached by heads of government in Florence earlier this year. The agriculture commissioner, Franz Fischler, has made no secret of his readiness to consider lifting the ban on a regional basis if the Government agrees.

After an hour and half of interrogation, Cohen convinced them he was not a spy but a fan of the regime who wanted to be there. He and his captors embraced, brought out the rum and started a party. Ira B Nadel on Leonard Cohen in Cuba

Friday Review page 4

New issue OUT NOW!



DIDN'T WE USED TO BE OCEAN COLOUR SCENE?

How did they do that? How did Ocean Colour Scene go from stripy-shirted, unrecognisable almost-rans to swaggering, bi-platinum, immovable kings of the charts in just four years? Find out — in full gory detail — in this month's Q.

PLUS! UNSEEN BEATLES PICS!

Just when you were convinced you'd seen 'em all! John, Paul, George, Ringo and kangaroo! And that's just for starters!

PLUS! Inside the muzzy mind of PAUL HEATON from THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH; behind the Sheryl Crow mask of SHERYL CROW; down the "front" with SUEDE and THE BLUE NILE and down the sea-front with THE HISTORY OF MOD.

PLUS!!! In Q's fully comprehensive LP review section: THE ROLLING STONES, THE LIGHTNING SEEDS, MADONNA and JONI MITCHELL.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST MUSIC MAGAZINE. THOROUGHLY MODERN.



# Man jailed for carrying work knives

Vivek Chaudhary

**A** MAN who uses knives for his work in a newspaper distribution plant was jailed for two weeks yesterday after police found him carrying three of them in his car.

Dean Payne, aged 26, was given the sentence even though magistrates at Marylebone court, central London, conceded that he was carrying the knives for work and had no intention to use them for "offensive purposes".

Payne is believed to be the first person jailed by magistrates using increased sentencing powers they received in July under the Offensive Weapons Act, rushed through Parliament after the stabbing of London headteacher Phillip Lawrence.

Previously the maximum sentence they could pass was a £1,000 fine, although crown courts could sentence offenders to up to two years in prison.

Payne told the court that he used knives at work to cut the straps around newspaper bundles and his employer did not provide a place to store them. Casual workers arriving without their own knives were often turned away because the company did not

provide them. Sentencing him, magistrate David Kennett-Brown told Payne: "I have to view your conduct in the light of the great public fear of people going around with knives."

"There is no evidence before me that you were intending to use the knives for offensive purposes. Nevertheless, three knives were found in your possession in a public place."

Payne, of Notting Hill, west London, was stopped on his way home from work by police two weeks after the new law was introduced. Officers found a lock knife, a small printer's knife and a Stanley knife in his car.

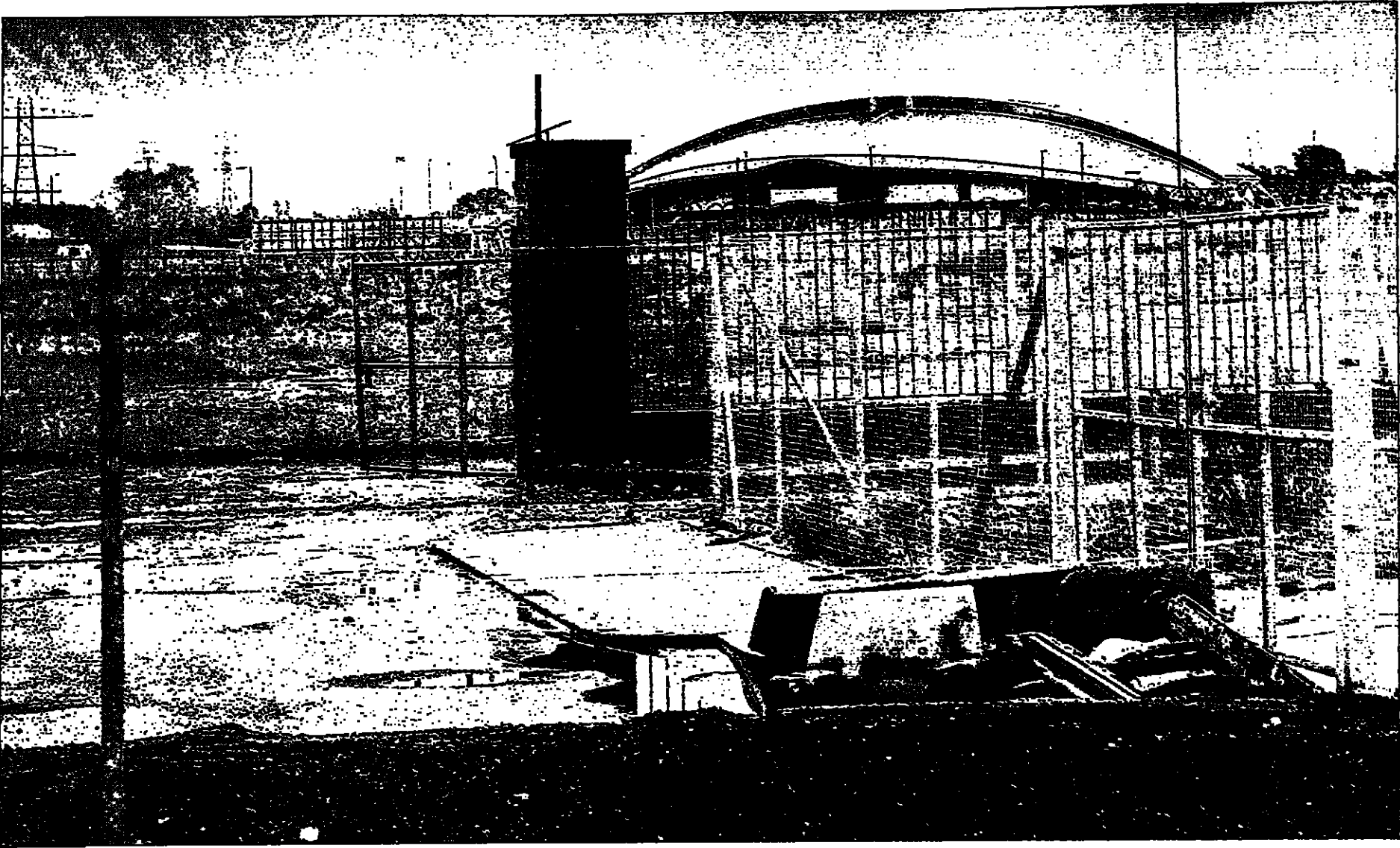
Payne admitted that he had been careless but said one knife was used for work, another was a spare and the third had been left in his car by a friend to whom he had given a lift after work.

He admitted three counts of illegally having blades or pointed articles in his car.

The court was also told that Payne had been convicted of possessing a knife as an offensive weapon when he was 18.

His solicitor, Martin Lewis, said that despite the recent publicity surrounding knives, a person who used them for work should not be jailed for carelessly leaving them in a car.

# Underdog Manchester fights back in battle with London for national stadium project



The 146-acre site at Eastlands proposed by Manchester for the 80,000-seat stadium. The National Cycling Stadium occupies part of the site

Peter Hetherington

**L**ONDON faced a welter of northern ridicule and abuse yesterday as Manchester took the gloves off in the battle for a national stadium.

Stung by suggestions last week that Wembley had effectively been chosen for a

lavish lottery-funded project - courtesy of endorsements from the Football Association, the Rugby League and athletics bodies - councillors, businessmen and sportsmen combined to push the case for a northern citadel.

Final presentations are to be put to the Sports Council next Wednesday, and the

winner is due to be announced at the end of the year.

With the Manchester rock band Oasis urging citizens to "go with it" on the sound system of an elaborate stage set in the town hall, an invited audience of the great and good heard a sustained attack on Wembley and the metropolises.

Raising the spectre of a woefully ill-equipped capital, Sir David Trippler, a former environment minister and leader of a "Manchester marketing" initiative, joked: "London? It's not noted for staging world class [sporting] events, is it a fantasy?"

"A national stadium in Manchester will not be

London's loss, it will be the nation's gain."

Lee Shostak, a stadium consultant from the United States closely involved with the Manchester design, poked further fun: "Twin towers? We've got 12. This is simple, pragmatic, deliverable - not a fantasy."

Crucially, the Manchester campaigners have given

relatively precise details on funding of a £200 million, 80,000 capacity stadium - sliding roof and all - that would plough profits into the community through a trust company which would operate the venture.

More than £100 million of lottery cash is needed, while the city has promised £20 million.

# Mackay pledge on civil justice

Claire Dyer Legal Correspondent

**P**ROPOSALS for the most radical changes to the civil justice system for a century will be implemented within two years, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, pledged yesterday.

The promise of full funding to implement the whole package drawn up by the Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, was welcomed by legal and consumer groups. Lord Woolf, who had been concerned that the Government might not commit the money needed, hailed the pledge as "good news for all those interested in improving our system of civil justice".

The reforms, unveiled in July, aim to produce a "culture change" in the civil courts, leading to cheaper and speedier justice. A fast track will deal with cases up to £10,000, with strict timetables, and fixed costs for lawyers tied to the value of the claim.

A "multi-track" system for bigger cases will be tightly managed by judges to speed up cases and keep costs in proportion to the amount of the claim.

The Civil Procedure Bill,

which paves the way for implementing the reforms, had its first reading last week in the House of Lords.

Announcing the Government's strategy for introducing the changes, Lord Mackay said the system would be operational from October 1998.

"Implementation of the reforms should be regarded not as a single event, but as the initiation of a new direction in the culture of civil litigation," he said.

Lord Mackay promised to delay - until the reforms are brought in - the introduction of radical legal aid changes under which solicitors and advice agencies will tender for block contracts to do legal aid work. "This will allow crucial proposals such as the fast track procedures to be in place before different methods of funding legal aid are introduced."

The reforms will be masterminded by Sir Richard Scott, head of the High Court's chancery division.

The National Consumer Council welcomed Lord Mackay's announcement. Its acting director, Robin Simpson, said: "The reforms will make the courts cheaper, more efficient, easier to understand, and fairer."

# Labour seeks fundholding 'evolution'

## GPs welcome end of threat to abolish system

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

**L**ABOUR looks ready to compromise on its biggest health policy dilemma after Chris Smith, shadow health secretary, yesterday told doctors fundholding should "evolve" rather than be abolished.

A Labour government would want sensible, not ideological, change to fundholding and would "build on what is happening at the moment", Mr Smith said.

His comments, in an address to the annual conference of the National Association of Fundholding Practices (NAFP), will be seen as an admission that Labour cannot continue to threaten to abolish a system that, from next April, is due to involve 56 per cent of all GPs in England and cover 58 per cent of its population.

Mr Smith told the conference in Harrogate: "We are not zealous ideologues. I don't think you are either. Let's see if we can map out a sensible way forward."

Association leaders welcomed the marked change in



Chris Smith: fundholding had 'brought advantages'

Labour's tone. They promised to be flexible in turn, but warned they would not shift fundholders' local health budgets to remain at the level of individual practices.

Gerald Malone, Health Minister, later told the conference: "The opponents of fundholding have learnt that when you are in a hole, you should stop digging. But they have yet to learn what to do next."

He upped the stakes on the issue by lifting a restriction that had prevented practices with fewer than 3,000 patients from becoming "community fundholders" - the entry level of the system. The change means many small practices in rural areas can join from next April.

terms of additional services for patients and GPs' command of information and use of computer technology.

"Most important, there has been the advantage that fundholding has genuinely put GPs in the driving seat in relation to the planning and ordering of care for patients and changed fundamentally the balance of advantage between the primary sector and the hospital sector."

Labour would be issuing detailed plans in a month or so, preparing proposals for the future we will want to see a process of evolution rather than revolution," he said.

Mr Smith referred particularly to multi-funds, by which fundholder practices combine forces and budgets - indicating that Labour would allow budgets to remain at the level of individual practices.

Gerald Malone, Health Minister, later told the conference: "The opponents of fundholding have learnt that when you are in a hole, you should stop digging. But they have yet to learn what to do next."

He upped the stakes on the issue by lifting a restriction that had prevented practices with fewer than 3,000 patients from becoming "community fundholders" - the entry level of the system. The change means many small practices in rural areas can join from next April.

## GMC considers new guidelines for intimate examinations after rise in complaints by patients

Sarah Boseley

**A**LARMED by the number of patients who accuse their doctors of abusing them in the privacy of the surgery, the GMC's disciplinary body is to consider issuing guidelines over the conduct of intimate examinations.

The General Medical Council already advises doctors that they should treat patients respectfully and respect their dignity and privacy. But the guidelines, which will be issued in the next few weeks, will set out the standards of intimate examinations.

The GMC's own organisation, the British Medical Association, already suggests that its members invite patients due to undergo an intimate examination to bring along a chaperone. "Most doctors are much happier with that situation because it safeguards them against any misinterpretation of the examination

and perhaps a complaint being brought against them," said a spokeswoman.

The BMA's advice is that any patient, male or female, being intimately examined by any doctor, male or female, should be chaperoned wherever possible - but this is not always possible to arrange in advance. "The patient may not be at all aware that they may have to have such an examination. Someone with a cough may be surprised the doctor wants to examine her chest, for example."

Some doctors will attempt to co-opt the practice nurse or receptionist as a chaperone - but there is not always somebody of the right sex available and the patient may object to the presence of someone they do not know.

But doctors and the bodies that represent them are increasingly aware of the peril they are in. The GP is no longer the ultimate authority figure who can do no wrong - there have been too many "dirty doctor" stories, some with more justification than others, in the tabloid papers.

Now, says the BMA, there is even a recognised syndrome that can befall the unsuspect-

ing medic - the woman (usually) who believes herself madly in love with her doctor and is so convinced he loves her in return that even when she suggests she switches to another GP she thinks it is to further their relationship.

It is just another episode of Casuality to the hapless doctor, says the BMA. "Everyone is much more aware of it being a problem these days," said the spokeswoman.

● A number of women are intending to sue the Kent and Canterbury Hospitals NHS Trust after a massive screening exercise revealed that their cervical smear tests were not clear, as they had been told, but contained possibly pre-cancerous cells.

Up to 300 women, out of more than 80,000 whose test slides were scrutinised by outside laboratories in the biggest ever re-checking exercise of its kind, were referred to specialists because of "high-grade abnormalities".

All but a handful of those women have been traced and received treatment, the trust said yesterday. Most will have received laser treatment to prevent cancer from developing, but "a couple of cases" had required hysterectomies.

Sarah Hartman of Canterbury solicitors Hartman and Hartman said she had been contacted by a number of women, some of whom intended to sue for compensation.

# The Dogs' Home Battersea Credit Card

**USE IT TO SAVE A DOG'S LIFE**

If you love dogs, you can really show it by taking out the Dogs' Home Battersea MasterCard® Card. As well as helping to save dogs' lives you'll benefit from:

- No fee in your first year\*
- A competitive APR of 18.5% (20.3% for Cash Advances)
- Worldwide acceptance
- By using your Card\*\*, you'll be helping some of the 20,000 strays the Dogs' Home rescues every year
- Up to £60 credit when you transfer existing credit card bills.

With your help there'll be room for your friends in need.

**CALL FREE ON 0800 371 509**

quoting ref V987

\*or return the coupon for The Dogs' Home Battersea MasterCard. FREEPOST, RG22 3EJ, Reading RG1 1BE

\*\*Please send me an application form for The Dogs' Home Battersea MasterCard.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

The Dogs' Home Battersea Saving London's strays since 1860

# Blunkett mounts assault on school indiscipline Labour's 10-point plan to tame tearaways

John Carvel Education Editor

**A** 10-POINT Labour plan to combat indiscipline in schools and tackle underachievement by boys will be set out today by David Blunkett, the shadow education secretary, in the wake of the closure of the Ridings School in Halifax.

"We have to overcome what some call lassism - the belief that it is cool not to work," he will tell local education authority leaders and officials at a conference in Salford.

According to details released by party officials last night, the programme will include sending 14- to 15-year-olds into the workplace for a week, providing them with role-model mentors from the local community, and re-invigorating youth movements, including the Scouts and Boy's Brigade.

"Groups of boys are developing a culture of not working, of thinking it is acceptable to truant and misbehave. Some of these young men end up carrying knives," Mr

Blunkett will say. A drive against truancy would be required to prevent their drift into crime.

According to a recent Home Office survey, 78 per cent of boys and 63 per cent of girls who truant subsequently committed criminal offences.

Labour's proposals for home-school contracts might help to nip that problem in the bud by creating a climate in which parents acted more vigorously to combat non-attendance.

Sending boys for a day a week into the workplace or a college of further education would also awaken their interest in the value of education.

Mr Blunkett wants to copy mentoring experiments in Basildon, Essex, and Lewisham, south London, where successful men come into schools to spend time with the boys and encourage enthusiasm for what they could achieve.

Figures to be presented to the Salford conference will show that the gender gap in GCSE exams widened this year.

At council-run schools, 48.8

per cent of girls and 33.8 per cent of boys passed at least five GCSEs at grade C or above in 1995. This year 45.1 per cent of girls and 34.7 per cent of boys achieved that level.

In a Commons debate on school discipline today, Estelle Morris, the Labour education spokeswoman, will call for home-school contracts, longer periods of exclusion for troublemakers and improved pupil-referral units to provide better education to excluded children.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, yesterday criticised two Labour MPs, Margaret Hodge and David Jamieson, who suggested that his union's campaign at the Ridings School was a recruiting exercise.

"I find that suggestion to be at best infantile and at worst downright insulting," he said.

"Teachers will be tearing their hair out in despair that Labour politicians should be seeking to trivialise what has been a developing problem over many years."

# £25m fund to help rough sleepers

Vivek Chaudhary

**T**EN local authorities are to be invited to apply for money from a new fund to tackle the problem of people sleeping rough, David Curry, the housing minister, announced yesterday.

Up to £25 million will be made available to the authorities from the Rough Sleepers Revenue Fund as the Government widens its Rough Sleepers Initiative (RSI).

Mr Curry also announced that an RSI zone will be created in Bristol and another in central London.

The 10 authorities are Bath, Bournemouth, Cambridge, Ealing in west London, Exeter, Leicester, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford and Richmond upon Thames.

They have been asked to submit proposals for extra funding for outreach workers, hostels and other initiatives to help rough sleepers.

The 10 were identified through a survey by Shelter, the charity for the homeless, to determine the numbers sleeping rough in 23 towns and cities. The survey, carried out on a single night, found 375 rough sleepers.

# Top independent schools back modular A levels

Donald MacLeod Education Correspondent

**M**ODULAR A levels, criticised as "too easy" in the light of this summer's improved examination results, have been given a vote of confidence by the country's leading independent schools.

The verdict from some of the most academically successful schools is a major boost for the exam boards that have introduced modular courses.

A survey of 300 independent schools found programmes where students could take exam papers at intervals over their two-year courses led to marginally better grades - a quarter of a grade on average - but not because they were easier.

In some subjects the intellectual demands on students were felt to be tougher, said James Miller, headmaster of Newcastle Royal Grammar School, who carried out the study for the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, the Girls' Schools

Association and the Society of Headmasters and Headmistresses of Independent Schools. Together these bodies represent 10 per cent of all candidates taking A levels in the most common modular subjects.

"The improvement comes from the fact that modular programmes are more student-friendly and lead to candidates working very much harder," said Mr Miller. They were popular with students and parents and had increased the number of candidates, particularly in mathematics.

He suggested the effects might be greater in schools where there was not already a strong work ethos.

Responses from the headteachers and senior staff surveyed were subjective, admitted Mr Miller. "But those individuals are very experienced and in the main distinctly sceptical about current fads and deeply committed to the maintenance of standards. Most was strongly opposed to modular innovations."

كلمات الجهر

Bid to back terror law phone tap

JUST YOUR N RE BT P M



# Bid to back terror law phone taps

Owen Bowcott and Richard Norton-Taylor

EVIDENCE obtained by the police and intelligence services during telephone tapping should be admissible in court in cases of national security, a radical review of anti-terrorist legislation urged yesterday.

The proposal, endorsed by MI5, the Royal Ulster Constabulary and Unionist politicians, is understood to be the subject of continued Whitehall infighting but could be added to the Government's forthcoming Police Bill.

Began earlier this year before the IRA abandoned its ceasefire, the Inquiry Into Legislation Against Terrorism by Lord Lloyd of Berwick proposes replacing emergency laws with a permanent UK-wide act.

No-jury Diplock courts should be abolished, shorter periods of detention introduced for terrorist suspects and both exclusion orders and internment without trial removed from the statute book.

Such attempts to dismantle long-standing anti-terrorist powers — predicated on an end to violence in Northern Ireland — are intended to bring the UK more into line with the European Convention on Human Rights.

But many of the most far-reaching features concern additional powers for the police and security services in Britain to tackle both foreign terrorist organisations — such as the Kurdish PKK — and domestic groups.

"The UK has a responsibility not to allow its territory to be used as a base for violent activity against a foreign government," Lord Lloyd declares. "The fact that an organisation is proscribed as

a terrorist organisation will make life generally more difficult for its supporters in the UK.

"The most significant additional measure which the Government can take is to amend the law of conspiracy so as to facilitate the prosecution of those who conspire here to commit terrorist acts abroad."

Civil liberties groups have voiced fears that direct action movements, such as the Animal Liberation Front or even anti-roads protesters, could find themselves defined as terrorist groups. The front which has planted bombs, is specifically referred to in one section.

The report says the Government has embarked on a root and branch review of the law covering the interception of communications, including faxes and mobile phones. Pressure for reform has come from Lord Lloyd, MI5, the RUC and the Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble. They believe the 1985 Interception of Communications Act prevents vital evidence obtained from telephone tapping being used in court.

Others in Whitehall, including it is understood, Home Office officials, argue that allowing such evidence would alert terrorists to surveillance techniques. The law is presently anomalous — evidence from microphones and other bugging and listening devices can be used in criminal proceedings. Telephone intercepts cannot be revealed.

The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, yesterday welcomed Lord Lloyd's report as the "framework for new, permanent counter-terrorism legislation" even if there was lasting peace in Northern Ireland. But there was no comment on whether any of it would be incorporated into the Police Bill.

### Main points

New powers proposed:

- Telephone taps admissible for court cases.
- Broader definition of terrorism as "use of serious violence... to promote political, social or ideological objectives".
- Membership of foreign terrorist organisations or conspiracy to commit terrorism abroad to become criminal offences in UK.
- Reduced sentences for

terrorists who give evidence against former colleagues. Powers to be dropped:

- Shorter periods of detention — four rather than seven days — permitted.
- Power of "internal exile" — known as exclusion orders — ended.
- Power of internment without trial ended.
- Diplock courts discontinued. Trials by jury reinstated.



An example of Miuccia Prada's 'naughty little sister' Miu Miu line shown in New York yesterday PHOTOGRAPH BY MOORE/THOMAS

## New York goes ga-ga for St Trinians look of 'Italian invasion' leader

Susannah Frankel

IT'S BEEN called the Italian Invasion: Gianfranco Ferré, Gianni Versace, Dolce & Gabbana, Moschino and Miuccia Prada have all shown collections in New York this season. A sudden mania for the same designers (and Giorgio Armani) to open flagship stores on Madison Avenue has, meanwhile,

turned New York's most auspicious shopping street into Little Italy. The reason for this European infiltration is simple — if London and Paris are about innovation, and Milan is about establishing next season's trends, New York is about big business. Always ahead of her time, the woman who began the exodus from Milan to New York five seasons ago was Miuccia

Prada, when she showed her Miu Miu line there. Although many designers have chosen Asia (and China in particular) as the most lucrative target for global expansion, Prada clearly feels America is equally important. Last Monday she opened a store on Madison, and with expected North American sales of \$170 million this year, she expects to hit \$800 million in five years.

If the Prada label is synonymous with rigorously intellectual fashion, Miu Miu is the grander, more feminine, naughty little sister. Its show yesterday had models complete with Saint Trinian's ponytails, in crisp navy, ink blue or plum cotton boyish fisherman jackets and tops paired with trousers cropped just below the knee. The convent schoolgirl has never looked so dangerous.

### News in brief

## Boost for volunteers in the community

ALMOST 3,000 neighbourhood groups are to be met each other and swap notes under a government initiative to re-invigorate local communities. Virginia Bottomley, the Hereditary Secretary, yesterday announced grants of £200 towards the costs of another 1,400 groups and £50 towards the costs of another 1,400 who will act as hosts.

The grants will be the first tangible evidence of a new commitment by the Government to boost small, volunteer-led groups. Mrs Bottomley said: "Picking the brains and sharing the skills of another organisation that has been through the same process can often be the most effective way of improving performance." — David Brindle

## Guernsey legalises abortion

GUERNSEY'S parliament yesterday voted by 34 to 20 to legalise abortion — the last area in the United Kingdom to do so. A 1910 law that made abortion punishable by life imprisonment was replaced by the States of Deliberation with new legislation that allows a pregnancy to be terminated up to the end of the 12th week, provided two doctors approve.

Numerous amendments were brought during the lengthy and emotional debate by pro-life politicians in an attempt to stop the new law.

## Spain holiday favourite

AUSTRALIA is the first country that British holidaymakers would like to visit if money were no object, but while it is, Spain, Greece and the Canary Islands remain the top choice, according to a Mori survey for the Association of British Travel Agents.

Of 800 people who had taken a package holiday in the previous 12 months, 41 per cent went to Greece, Spain and the Canaries. There were increases in the numbers heading for Turkey and Malta, and the top long-haul destinations were Australia, the US and the Caribbean. — Jeanette Page

## Boy for trial on murder

A BOY aged 13 was committed for trial yesterday accused of murdering Jade Matthews, aged 9. The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, spoke only to confirm his identity during the hearing at Bootle, Merseyside. He was accompanied by his mother and stepfather.

Jade's body was found by police on Sunday, July 7, beside a railway line at Bridle Way, Netherton.

## Body in net: couple held

AN Essex couple were arrested yesterday in connection with the death of a man whose body was caught in the nets of a trawler fishing off Teignmouth, Devon, in July. The body is thought to be that of Ronald Joseph Platt, aged 51, from Essex.

The couple were held in Woodham Walter, near Chelmsford, and were being taken to Torquay. — Geoffrey Gibbs

## Inquiry into jail death

AN inquiry has been launched into the death of a teenage remand prisoner found hanging in his cell less than 24 hours after being admitted to Exeter prison. Neal Short, aged 19, was remanded in custody by Plymouth magistrates on Wednesday on charges of stealing a car, attempting to pervert the course of justice, and driving while disqualified.

He was alone in the cell and a ligature of shoe laces around his neck had been tied to the bed. — Geoffrey Gibbs

## Girobank

IN yesterday's Guardian it was wrongly stated that Girobank had reduced its base rate to 6 per cent. The base rate has actually been increased from 5.75 per cent to 6 per cent a year. We apologise for the error.

# JUST WHAT YOUR COMPANY NEEDS TO REDUCE ITS BT PHONE BILL. MERCURY.

Does your BT phone bill seem high? Then send your phone bill to Mercury. States during a five minute compared to Mercury that phone

NAME/SURNAMES INITIALS SURNAME  
COMPANY NAME  
JOB TITLE  
ADDRESS  
POSTCODE  
TELEPHONE

Mercury

Monday-Thursday 9am-6pm Friday 9am-5pm Saturday 9am-5pm Sunday 10am-4pm

All prices are approximate and not in scale. Merchandise subject to availability. Plus all products will be available at the following Homebase stores: St. Peter's - Manchester, Huddersfield - Manchester, Old Market Place - Park, Gifford Lane South - Reading, Gosworthey Road - Ipswich, Old Road - Chatteris - High Wycombe, Hartley Park - Chatteris, Rye - London, Park Lane - Edinborough, Castle Crooked - Gully, Hemlock Road - Warrington and Aldersham Road - Altrincham. Opening times may vary. Please call 011-200 0200 for details of your nearest store. Taxes shown in Scotland which open 9am - 6pm. Light bulbs not included.

**Verdi Gris Linear 5 Light Pendant**  
£74.99 Save £25  
Also available matching Verdi Gris Linear Single Wall Light  
£16.99 £13.99 Save £3

**Micromark Brunel Security Lantern with Microscan?**  
Black or White  
£34.99 Save £10-50

**Homebase Fluted Pleat Uplighter 18"**  
Choice of colour  
£18.99  
Save £3

**Ring Kingsbury Outdoor Lantern?**  
Black  
£19.99 Save £3

**Parchment Shade with Fleur-de-lis Design**  
Choice of colours  
£7.99 Save £2

**Homebase Pearl Light Bulbs Multipack of 9**  
3 of each  
40w, 60w and 100w  
Bayonet cap  
£1.99

**Homebase Softlight Candle Bulbs**  
Pack of 4, White  
25w, 40w or 60w  
Bayonet cap  
£8.99  
Save £1-20

**Brass Candlestick Lamp Base**  
Choice of colours  
£29.99  
Save £5

**Wooden Table Lamp with Fluted Shade**  
Choice of colours  
£18.99  
Save £2

**Homebase Softlight Candle Bulbs**  
Pack of 4, White  
25w, 40w or 60w  
Bayonet cap  
£8.99  
Save £1-20

**SAINSBURY'S HOMEBASE**  
HOUSE AND GARDEN CENTRES  
Good ideas cost less at Homebase.

### Advance deal heralds bland food summit

John Hooper in Rome

THIS month's World Food Summit is close to becoming something more than a bureaucratic must-dream-of — an international conference incapable of generating controversy because every issue has been settled in advance.

Delegates and officials met yesterday at the headquarters of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome for what they hoped would be their last negotiations on the final declaration. The summit itself is not due to begin for a fortnight.

It has long been the practice at international conferences for officials (known as "sherpas", because they go ahead) to negotiate the bulk of an agreement in advance. However, in most cases, the thorniest problems have waited for the conference itself, and for an injection of the political will only ministers were thought able to deliver.

At two of the UN's most recent high-level, high-profile summits — the population conference in Cairo in 1994 and the women's conference in Beijing last year — the wording of the final declaration was not agreed until hours before the closing formalities.

It is this which the FAO has gone all-out to avoid. The text of the food summit's final declaration should have been agreed even earlier — on Wednesday night. But despite an all-night session, some passages remained in dispute yesterday. Sources said the main obstacle was whether the document should back a "right" or merely "access" to food for all.

According to the FAO, more than 800 million people worldwide face chronic undernourishment. It expects conditions to improve, but predicts that unless action is taken there will still be 680 million chronically undernourished in the year 2010.

The international community, through the UN, is ostensibly committed to the idea that people have a right to be free from hunger and malnutrition. But some Western governments are understood to fear legal action if they agree that their citizens enjoy a right to food itself.

"It's the biggest problem remaining", said an FAO official, who added that it might

be referred to a committee of legal experts if no compromise were reached.

The biggest dispute resolved ahead of the food summit concerned trade. The United States and most other developed nations want Third World countries to allow freer trade in agricultural goods. But the poorer states, and many aid organisations, argue that free trade cannot be fair while governments in the developed world give their farmers huge subsidies.

An official said yesterday that only three disputed phrases concerning trade remained in the document. The key issue of liberalisation had been resolved with a reference to "fair and market-oriented" commerce.

There is a widespread feeling among UN officials that the Cairo and Beijing conferences suffered from too much attention being concentrated on the Vatican's objections to abortion and contraception. The same danger also existed

## Dark days for Romanians

Sunday's poll is likely to result in another weak government, writes Julian Borger in Oradea

EVERY evening, the streets of Oradea get darker. Like most public utilities in Romania, street lighting has been on the decline for the past seven years.

In this town of 350,000 people near the Hungarian border, walking after dusk is precarious. It is no longer possible to spot the muddy holes and open drains, unless you stick to the private, well-lit shops which stand out like beacons in the town centre.

But the dimming of the light has been gradual, as the impoverished town council fails to replace broken or stolen bulbs, and many Oradeans, like Rosalia Erdey, accept the decline.

"I suppose the streets are darker. You get used to it, and to be honest I don't really notice," Mrs Erdey said. She is aged 68 and a former worker on a collective farm. After years of inflation, her pension has diminished to 25 a month, and she is dependent on her daughter and the potatoes she uproots on an allotment near the airport.

But she will vote for the governing former communists in Sunday's presidential and parliamentary elections.

Despite the violence of the uprising in December 1989, Romania — unlike most of its neighbours — has yet to make

a radical break with the past by giving liberals and market reformers a chance to govern.

That may change on Sunday, when the liberal and social democrat opposition has a chance of winning at least a share in power. But the communist PSDR has a solid base of support.

In the presidential race, Ion Iliescu, (a former regional Communist Party leader who has run the country since 1989), still leads his nearest rival, Emil Constantinescu, a university professor, by between 3 and 12 per cent.

Mr Constantinescu's Democratic Convention (CDR) alliance is ahead of the PSDR, but not by much and the only

certainty about the parliamentary poll is that it will produce a weak coalition government over which the president will be able to wield considerable influence.

Some of the reasons for the communists' hold on power are evident in Oradea. Unemployment is below 5 per cent as most of its state-owned textile and food processing factories are still functioning. They are rumoured to employ one-third of their capacity with old machinery, and the subsidised wages are only 80 a month. But there have been no sudden shocks.

"It's peaceful here," Mrs Erdey points out, remembering the years of turbulence following the execution in 1989 of the dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. She will vote for Mr Iliescu on Sunday, because "he's the president."

Mr Roman's centre-left coalition, USD.

President Iliescu, if re-elected, could use the USD's ambivalence to try to keep the PSDR in power in a hung parliament, or undermine any pro-reform coalition Mr Roman and Constantinescu attempt to form.

The PSDR is advertising itself as a belatedly reborn party. "The age of our leaders has gone from the sixties to the forties. We've replaced two-thirds of our parliamentarians in building a new class of leaders," Adrian Nastase, the PSDR leader, said.

This shift in generations is producing policy changes. Weeks before the election, after years of delay, the government launched a mass privatisation scheme, involving 4,000 state enterprises.

### Governments are not being asked to back their words with hard cash

In this instance, during the preparatory negotiations, Roman Catholic anti-abortionists objected to an undertaking to help the world's poor by promoting "reproductive health services".

The phrase had yesterday been removed from the text, though there remained a commitment to promote "reproductive health services" consistent with the Cairo declaration.

By resolving every possible dispute in advance of the conference, the FAO is hoping to focus attention on its central purpose. This is defined as being the renewal of a "high-level commitment around the world to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, and to the achievement of lasting food security for all".

But there is another danger — that the entire exercise will be seen as ceremonial, as the governments represented in Rome are not being asked to back their words with hard cash. Food aid from rich to poor nations has almost halved over the past three years, but the FAO will not be seeking pledges of more.



Islamic militants await verdicts yesterday in Cairo. Three were given 25 years in jail, after a year-long trial, for their part in attacks which left 63 people dead. PHOTOGRAPH ENRIC MARTI

# BOOK ANY THOMSON WINTER HOLIDAY NOW AT THOMAS COOK.

AND RECEIVE A BLAKE'S COTTAGES/COUNTRY HOLIDAYS VOUCHER WORTH UP TO £50 ABSOLUTELY FREE.

THOMSON

BLAKE'S Cottages

UP TO £50 OFF

COUNTRY Holidays

**EXCLUSIVE TO THOMAS COOK**

Now you can plan a trip to the country while you're out of the country. Book any Thomson 06/07 Winter, ski, or tropical holiday between the 1 and 15 November '96 and you will receive a voucher worth up to £50 off a holiday from the Blake's Cottages or Country Holidays brochure — and all this in addition to current Thomas Cook Winter discounts. So hurry down to your local Thomas Cook shop or book by phone quoting TC 292 or see Teletext page 268. Your dream cottage awaits you.

**Thomas Cook**

**0990 777 555**  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Bookings are subject to availability and appropriate offers apply to new bookings on any Thomas holiday and are based on the standard holiday, cruise and charter flights booked, between 1 and 15 November 1996, departing between 1 November 1996 and 31 April 1997. Offers are subject to the balance of the cost of the holiday being paid not later than 10 weeks before the date of departure. Offer is subject to each passenger purchasing Thomas Cook insurance. The above voucher is valid for up to 12 months and will be issued upon booking and is valid against any Thomas holiday and Blake's Cottages. Voucher must be redeemed through Thomas Cook any time before 31 March 1997, and is not valid for use between 1 and 15 November 1997. Excludes ski and holiday packages. 21 March 1997. Offer can be taken in addition to current Thomas Cook discounts. Discount not available for weekend bookings. UK use only for full details. A holiday charge of 1% will apply to all travel transactions paid by credit card or charge card, up to a maximum of £30 per transaction. \*1996 New Year Special - 1996, 1997 and 1998. 1996-1997. To receive charge of 1996-1997 on Thomas Cook Direct see website. The Thomas Cook Group Ltd ABTA 28263, being agents for Thomas Cook (Incorporated in UK) ATOL 2421

### News in brief

**Apartheid police chief admits death trap**  
JACK CRONJE, a brigadier in the South African apartheid police force, confessed yesterday to planning the murder of 10 youths, who died in a mini-van explosion in 1988. He told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that a police undercover agent had tricked the youths, who were on their way to an African National Congress military training camp in Botswana, into accepting a ride. The agent took the youths to a point near the border where four special force operatives were waiting. They injected the youths with a drug, which left them unconscious, and then placed them in a mini-bus packed with explosives. The bus was pushed over an incline and exploded, killing the youths.

**Top scientist kills himself**  
A Russian nuclear physicist has committed suicide after apparently losing hope of keeping aloof the once top-secret research centre he headed, his deputy said yesterday. The workers had not been paid since May. Vladimir Nechal, aged 60, shot himself in his office in the Urals town of Snezhinsk. — Reuter.

**Superman is back**  
Christopher Reeve, aged 44, the Superman star left paralysed from the neck down by a riding accident last year, is directing a film, in the Gloaming, about a man dying of AIDS, writes Ian Katz in New York.

**Jailbreak victims**  
Five suspected Tamil guerrillas and a soldier guarding them were killed during a breakout from a maximum security prison in north-eastern Sri Lanka. — AP.

**Kurds reach deal**  
Feuding Iraqi Kurdish factions agreed in Ankara yesterday to extend permanently a US-brokered ceasefire that ended two months of clashes in northern Iraq, the US peace envoy, Robert Pelletreau, said. — Reuter.

**Bid to kill Taylor fails**  
LIBERIA's chief warlord, Charles Taylor, who survived an assassination attempt yesterday when gunmen ambushed him inside the presidential palace. Taylor's senior aide was killed in the command-style attack by gunmen who forced their way into the executive mansion in Jeeps. Panic gripped the capital, Monrovia, which still recovering from devastating ethnic warfare in April and May. African peacekeepers trying to end nearly seven years of civil war quickly moved tanks across the city's commercial district. Radio reports said 10 people died in the attack. — Reuter.

**Robber bites police dog**  
A SUSPECT fleeing the scene of a robbery with a police dog nipping at his heels decided to bite back. Ricardo Culberson, 27, fled the Royal Palm Hotel with \$499 (280) but Miami Beach police in the shape of Myrus, a German shepherd, closed in. Culberson called out: "Come here, doggy, doggy," grabbed the dog and bit him on the neck, police said. He did not even break the skin. Culberson was pepper-sprayed, handcuffed and faces charges of armed robbery, armed carrying, aggravated assault and biting the dog. — AP.

**Death by firing squad**  
A MILITARY tribunal has sentenced three Palestinian bodyguards to death by firing squad for murdering a driving instructor, the court announced in Gaza yesterday. The three will be executed on Tuesday unless the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, commutes the sentence. Rogeh Abu-Sadi, aged 23, Raied Mansur, aged 24, and Arafat Abu-Shabbab, aged 22, bodyguards for Palestinian officials, had a personal feud with Fadiel Zariela, aged 45, a driving instructor, stemming from 1993 when Zariela shot Mansur in the hand, the Palestinian police commander, Brigadier General Jhazi Jabli, said. — AP.

### A Special Announcement

## 14 nights in Costa Rica and Cuba from £750.00

or 7 nights in Cuba from £395 or 7 nights in Costa Rica from £450

Commencing in December we shall be inaugurating a new direct service with Monarch Airlines between London Gatwick, Costa Rica and Cuba. From January we are making available 20 seats per flight on a first-come first-served basis for a 7 or 14-night arrangement: 7 nights in either Costa Rica or Cuba or as a combination of the two destinations for 14-night duration. Essentially the arrangement is for those who would prefer an unstructured programme by taking advantage of the convenient flight hotels and local representation. Locally our representatives are on hand to assist with any visits around the sights and/or car hire.

**THE HOTEL PRESIDENTE, Havana**  
The 3-star Hotel Presidente has recently been refurbished but has retained its Spanish facade and interiors. There are 124 rooms all of which have private bathroom and air-conditioning. The public facilities include a restaurant, bar, outside terrace and swimming pool.

**THE COROBICI HOTEL, San Jose**  
Only three minutes from downtown San Jose, the Corobici Hotel with its casino, spa, fine restaurants, night club, shops and 200 comfortable rooms is an ideal location for visitors to Costa Rica. Every room is luxuriously furnished and has private bathroom, air-conditioning, remote control TV, safety deposit box, mini-bar and room service.

**DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES**  
1997 Thursdays - per person in a twin  
Jan 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Feb 6, 13, 20, 27 - March 6, 13, 20, 27 - April 3, 10, 17, 24 - May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
7 nights Havana £295 (14 nights £595)  
7 nights San Jose £350 (14 nights £695)  
7 nights Havana + San Jose £475  
Single £95 (11 wks) or £180 (12 wks). Excludes £25 pp. (includes 1 transport to hotel, room with complementary for the 14 nights of the chosen hotel, service of local representative. Not subject to change. All bookings are accepted subject to our Conditions of Booking, available on request.

**0171-6161000**  
**VOYAGES JULES VERNE**  
21 Dorset Square, London NW1  
Tel: 0171 6161000  
Internet: <http://www.vjv.co.uk>  
The office is open 9am to 6pm, 7 days a week. Personal calls over the phone are subject to our Conditions of Booking.

Skilled as  
Brazilian  
crashes  
to home

Vote  
while

Cambodia  
IMF logging

Handwritten signature or text at the bottom center of the page.





### 98 killed as Brazilian jet crashes into homes

**BODIES** covered with plastic sheets lie in the street after a Brazilian Fokker-100 airliner crashed into a residential area of Sao Paulo shortly after takeoff yesterday, starting a fire that engulfed flats

homes and cars. All 95 people aboard the jet, and at least three on the ground, were killed. The death toll was expected to rise as firefighters searched homes struck and set on fire by

the crash. One resident said he saw "a river of fuel on fire flowing down the street". Police and firefighters used plywood planks as makeshift stretchers to carry bodies to lorries that

shuttled to and from the area. Black smoke poured into the sky from fires on the ground. The head of the Special Operations Group, Roberto Pacheco de Toledo, said 98 bodies were in the morgue. — AP.

## Be kind to Dole, McGovern urges

### Jonathan Freedland in Washington

**O**NE man knows better than anyone what Bob Dole is going through. He knows the anguish of defeat so well, his name has become a synonym for electoral humiliation. George McGovern lost 49 out of 50 states in 1972, when he was trounced by Richard Nixon. His defeat was so thorough, he failed to carry even his home state.

"If he loses overwhelmingly, as I did," the former candidate says, "he'll at some level feel a personal repudiation." In a rare interview, Mr McGovern talked about his efforts to recover from a landslide loss, about the tragic death of his daughter, and about his friendship with his Senate colleague Bob Dole. Despite their clashing politics, the veteran liberal and Republican are still close — "We're the same age, we've been through the same struggles" — to the extent that Mr McGovern is hoping the voters give Bob Dole a crumb of comfort on Tuesday.

"I'd like to see Bob Dole do well. I'd like to see him push Clinton all the way," he said, adding that landslide victories are "dangerous". But he suspects a different fate awaits. "Things go pretty quiet the day after the elec-

tion," he smiles, recalling the deflation he felt after a year in which the world's press had hung on his every word. "Ronald Reagan told Nancy that after the White House, everything else was dishwasher. I guess that's the way a loser feels: nothing else you do in life is ever quite that exciting," he says, a framed 'McGovern '72' poster looking out from the wall behind him.

Now 73, Mr McGovern is head of the Middle East Council, a Washington think-tank. His staff call him Senator, and he is still recognised in the street. But he admits that, having missed out on the White House, "you have a cer-

tain feeling of incompleteness about your career." In the Democratic party, Mr McGovern has not lacked company. He recalls chatting with Adlai Stevenson, who lost in 1952 and 1956. "He found it very painful," he says. And Michael Dukakis of 1988 and Walter Mondale of 1984 are both still around, one teaching at Harvard, the other US ambassador to Japan. But Bob Dole risks becoming the first Republican candidate since Barry Gold-

**'We're the same age, we've been through the same struggles'**

water in 1964 never to have reached the White House. "I at least had the Senate to go back to, and that made it easier," says Mr McGovern. Even so, "there's a certain wistfulness that never goes away." For years, he tried to recapture the buzz of the campaign. He opened a hotel in Connecticut, but it failed. And then, in late 1994, he found a new cause.

His daughter Terry fell down drunk in Madison, Wisconsin, and froze to death. It marked the end of a lifelong struggle with alcoholism, which had seen her in and out of detoxification centres.

"Nothing really seized me like the death of my daughter," the long-ago candidate says now, his face still crumpled with grief. This year he published a brutally candid memoir about Terry, and he has once again become a campaigner, warning of a threat to the nation.

### Developers bulldoze Japan's ancient capital

## Kyoto celebrates tradition while tearing the past down

Andrew Higgins in Kyoto, Japan

**A**T THE end of each rainy season, Japan's ancient capital erupts its history with parades, prayer and much hyperbole about reverence for tradition from the corporate sponsors of Gion Matsuri, a festival first held in the year 970. This year's festivities introduced a curious way to celebrate Kyoto's glorious past: labourers moved in to tear down one of the city's finest traditional wooden houses.

A big Japanese developer had bought it for the equivalent of \$2.5 million and wanted to start building a multi-storey concrete block. The seller, the head of the Gion festival, "The chairman of the most traditional festival in Kyoto was busy tearing down his own family home in the middle of celebrations to honour the city's past," said an American long-time resident, Marc Keane, a landscape architect and head of the International Society to Save Kyoto. "This tells you a lot about priorities in this city."

A petition begging municipal authorities to save the house, the home of the Fukami family, achieved nothing. "There are many buildings like the Fukami resi-

dence remaining in Kyoto," responded Minoru Nitta of the city's Department of Cultural Properties. "We wish you to understand that it is very difficult for the city to respond to requests for preservation assistance." Never mind that the municipal government had itself selected the property for an official book celebrating Kyoto's townhouses, known as "bedrooms of eels" because of their shape, which represent a unique style of architecture based on the un-

form measurements of tatami mats. The failure to rescue the Fukami residence was just another skirmish in a long, mostly fruitless, campaign to slow the advance of the "construction state" — an alliance of builders, politicians and bureaucrats at the core of Japan's post-war economy. The country spends nearly three times as much on construction as the United States, 32 times as much in terms of relative size, according to Japan expert Gavan McCormack.

In Kyoto, a city that for so long epitomized Japanese culture from cuisine to calligraphy, the power of

Buddhist monks representing more than 1,000 local temples have been able to slow the spoliation. Preservationists say 4,000 old townhouses have been demolished in the past decade. Many families wanted to keep their old homes but could not afford taxes levied on their land.

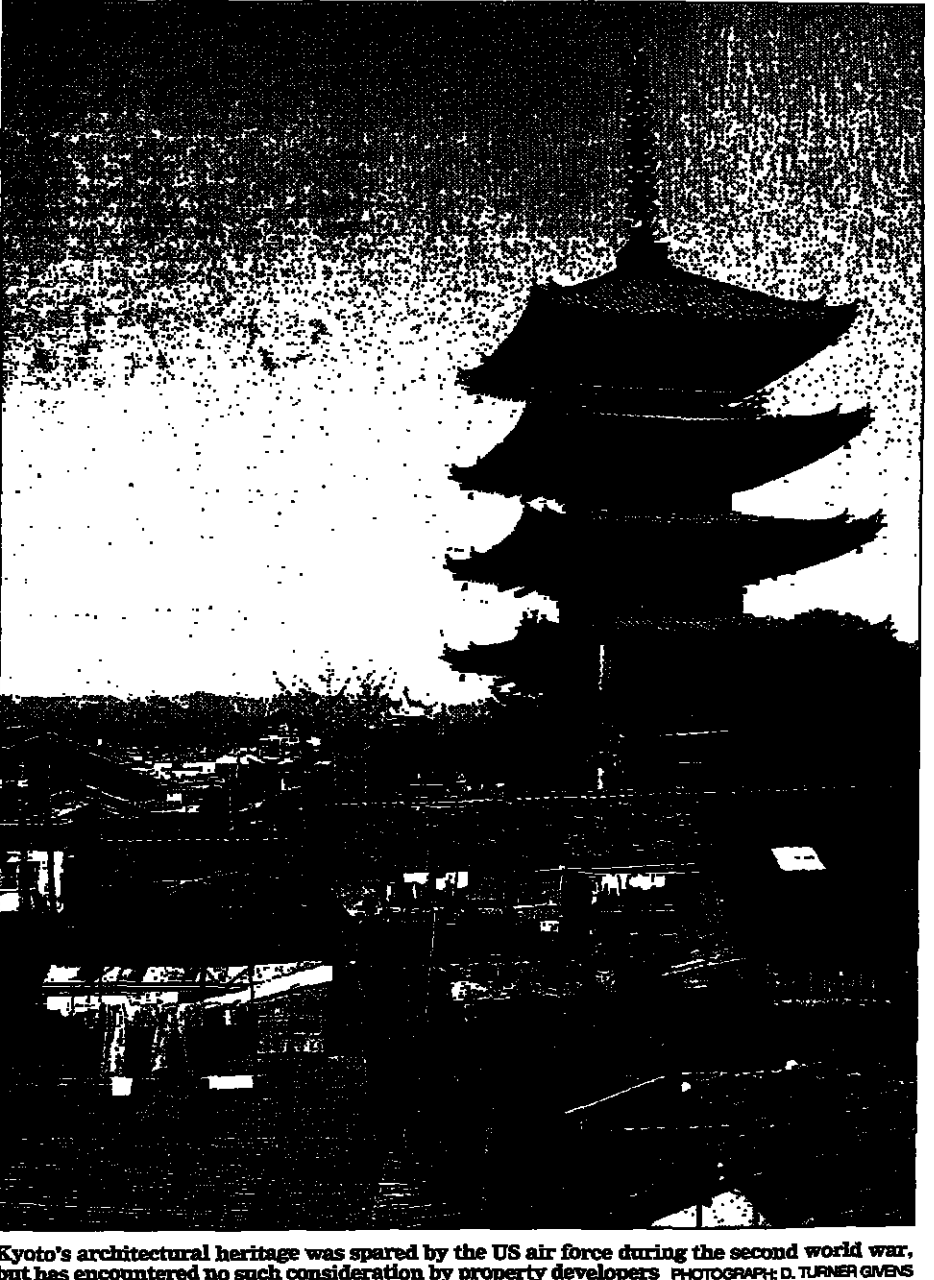
"Travel around this country — all Japanese provincial towns look the same, they have no personality," said a professional preservationist, Kimura Manpei, a retired school teacher. He spends most of his time fighting against a new Kyoto railway station, which he says violates both legal and aesthetic principles, and has filed a suit to try to halt the vast structure of concrete and tinted glass nearing completion in the south of the city. Passengers arriving from Tokyo now confront a wall that obscures even the mountains surrounding the city.

"The court keeps putting off the case while the builders keep building," he said. "They want to finish the project. Then the court will say that as it has been completed there is no point in considering whether it is legal." A city of 1.4 million and home to some of Japan's leading corporations, including the game manufacturer Nintendo, Kyoto still has 2,000 temples and shrines, countless gardens and three castles. But such assets do not provide jobs, tax revenue or contributions to the campaign funds of local politicians. For this, Kyoto depends on big business. About 35 million tourists visit each year, but they generate only 10 per cent of local income. "Old buildings don't contribute taxes. There is nothing in old buildings that the present administration sees as valuable," Mr Keane said.

"When they think of these buildings they think of rabbit hutches, dirt and darkness. They think of poor Asia. They see everything Japan does not want to be."

The country spends nearly three times as much on construction as the US

form measurements of tatami mats. The failure to rescue the Fukami residence was just another skirmish in a long, mostly fruitless, campaign to slow the advance of the "construction state" — an alliance of builders, politicians and bureaucrats at the core of Japan's post-war economy. The country spends nearly three times as much on construction as the United States, 32 times as much in terms of relative size, according to Japan expert Gavan McCormack.



Kyoto's architectural heritage was spared by the US air force during the second world war, but has encountered no such consideration by property developers. PHOTOGRAPH BY D. TURNER/GAMMA

"The chairman of the most traditional festival in Kyoto was busy tearing down his own family home in the middle of celebrations to honour the city's past."

"When they think of these buildings they think of rabbit hutches, dirt and darkness. They think of poor Asia. They see everything Japan does not want to be."

Head of the International Society to Save Kyoto

## Cambodia fails to meet IMF logging deadline

Nicholas Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok

**T**HE Cambodian government failed to meet yesterday's deadline from the International Monetary Fund for enforcing measures to regulate the cutting and export of timber. The IMF warned earlier this month that failure to enforce these procedures would result in a small part of Cambodia's Phnom Penh say an IMF aid effort would have a domino effect on assistance from other sources.

The issue strikes at the heart of corruption at the highest levels of government, obstructing efforts to revive the war-battered economy and frustrating international aid donors. "The moment of truth has come," said the opposition leader, Sam Rainsy, who plans a demonstration in Phnom Penh on Sunday.

Two issues are worrying Cambodia's aid community. The country is emerging from floods that displaced many thousands of villagers and destroyed crops. The green lobby asserts that the floods are the consequence of unregulated destruction of Cambodian forests. In the early 1970s these covered close to three-quarters of Cambodia. Today they have dwindled to about one-third. Concessions awarded by Cambodia's leaders to a small number of foreign companies in the past few years are thought to account for all but a small part of Cambodia's commercially viable forest.

Environmental groups and international agency staff say the government has taken little action. An IMF team arriving in Phnom Penh on Sunday to review government financial performance is expected to investigate. Aid officials in Phnom Penh say an IMF aid effort would have a domino effect on assistance from other sources.

There is also unregulated cutting by the Khmer Rouge, whose timber sales to Thai companies help to finance Pol Pot's 18-year insurgency. And there is the rampant, unlicensed and unregulated log-

ging by money-hungry generals. The government last year announced a ban on new cutting. It appears to have made not the slightest difference. A study by the World Bank and two UN agencies concluded that properly managed and sustainable logging could earn the government \$100 million a year. But the \$34 million the government took two years ago dwindled to \$6 million in the first eight months of this year.

Early this year Cambodia's co-prime ministers, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, signed what is now dubbed the "million metre" deal with Thailand's then deputy prime minister, Chaovait Yongchaiyudh, on behalf of 11 Thai companies. It seems much of the 1.1 million cubic metres to be exported had not been felled at the time of the deal.

Cambodian leaders told aid donors at a meeting in Tokyo in July that they had set up a steering committee, chaired by the co-prime ministers, to manage forestry. It has never met.

## Californians vote on wider agenda

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

**A**NEW kind of American politics is on offer in California next Tuesday, when voters will have a more liberal agenda to consider than anything offered by President Clinton. They may criminalise cannabis for medicinal use; make boards of directors responsible for lawsuits from shareholders who lose money; raise the minimum wage; tax the very rich; improve reform political campaign funding.

There is something for conservatives, too. They can vote to terminate state preferences for women and minorities in further education, jobs and contracts; and impose a new anti-tax measure preventing local authorities from levying a charge on hotel stays and on dozens of other services.

The initiatives come under California's referendum system, in which voters cast a simple Yes or No for any of

the 15 propositions this year to become state law. The cannabis measure will probably pass, as will the demolition of affirmative action, but the fate of the others is uncertain. The proposition system was created early this century to curb the power of the railway barons, who had politicians in their pockets, and give some power back to the people. Despite the infiltration of lobbyists and other vested interests into the system, the propositions do provide voters with interesting ideas. These have been lacking in a deadlocked state legislature swash in dubious campaign donations. No major bills have been passed for two years, and two attempts to decentralise cannabis were vetoed by the Republican state governor.

Analysts believe the proliferation of propositions this year reflects increasing frustration with traditional politics. About 30 other states now have plebiscites, so disgruntled voters across America may follow California's embrace of the system.

## Tutsis take Bukavu as Zairean troops flee

Chris McGreal in Cyangugu reports on a nation on the verge of breaking up as law and order collapses

**G**OVERNMENT soldiers are fleeing eastern Zaire in disarray after losing control of much of the region. One provincial capital has fallen to Tutsi rebels and another, Goma, is on the brink of collapse in the face of a renewed onslaught. Tutsi fighters now occupy thousands of square miles, or have at least denied control to the Zairean Government, potentially heralding the break up of one of the largest countries in Africa. Banyamulenge rebels have finally seized control of Bukavu, the capital of South Kivu province, in less than two weeks of all-out fighting. In neighbouring North

Kivu, another group of Tutsi rebels is bearing down on Goma. Heavy machine-gun fire and mortars reverberated across the city yesterday. Zairean troops were fighting around the airport about three miles from the city centre. The spokesman in Goma for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Panos Mouton, told Reuters: "The airport has been taken over. It is controlled from the Zairean side. Right now there is no movement in town. It is completely deserted. He said aid workers remained inside their offices in the lakeside city after heavy fighting since yesterday morning.

There is a general feeling of law and order breaking down, with two UNECR vehicles hijacked this morning. Some aid agency compounds and offices have been attacked by Zairean soldiers and looting is under way, but it is still limited," Mr Mouton said. Reports said shells also landed around Goma from across the border in Rwanda.

as happened shortly before the final rebel push on Bukavu. Although Rwanda admits its troops raided Bukavu earlier this week, it continues to insist it is not directly supporting the rebellion. Members of the Rwandan Hutu army and extremist militias defeated in 1994, which fled into Zaire after leading the genocide of Tutsis, are fighting alongside local troops. Rebels in both provinces have advanced rapidly over the past fortnight as Zairean soldiers frequently turned and ran, putting up token resistance at best, despite a lot of shooting.

About 100,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees have fled ahead of the rebel advance on Goma, further swelling Mungana refugee camp to the west of the city. It is already the largest in the world with about 500,000 people. With Goma airport closed, and other routes into the city severed by fighting, the United Nations says it is unable to provide aid to the refugees.



**The pensions volcano**

Forget about EMU until the problem is solved

ANY COUNTRY which signs up to monetary union before defusing the time bomb of unfunded pension liabilities — up to £10 trillion on some estimates — would be foolish in the extreme. The Commons social security committee is to be congratulated on forcing this issue — hardly discussed at all in Brussels — into the open. Britain's current national debt is equivalent to about £5,000 per person. If we add to that unfunded pension liabilities (ie those that will have to be paid by the taxpayer rather than by private occupational funds) then the burden rises to £9,000 per person. But if as a result of monetary union we end up in some way responsible for the pension debts of other EU nations then the figure would increase to £30,000 for every man, woman and child in the country — or more than twice that if the cost fell just on people in employment.

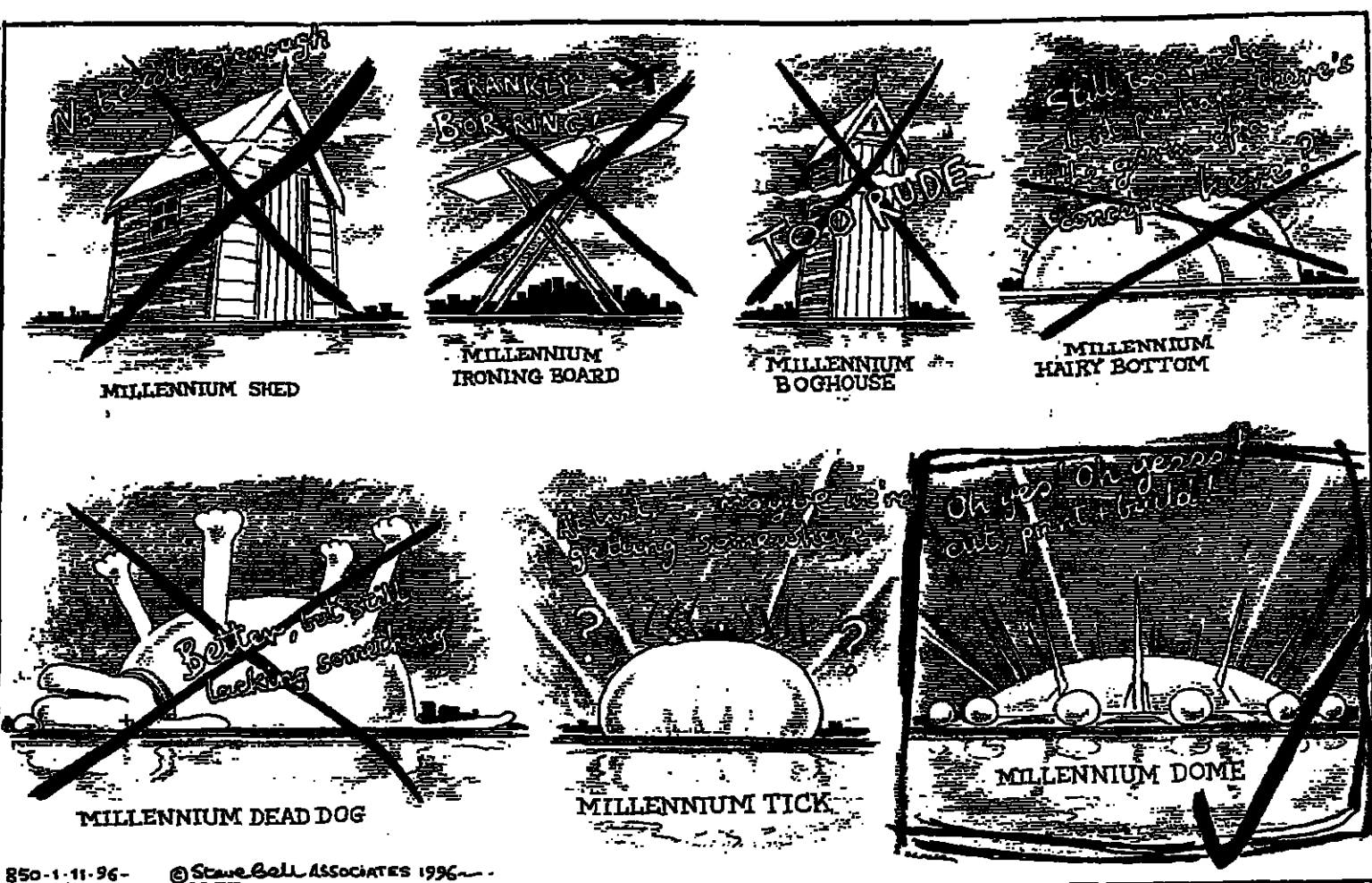
savings. Or — Doomsday scenario — the whole thing becomes a European problem within a single currency with Britain having to cough up as well directly or indirectly. If Europe tried to solve this problem by taxing everyone it would probably prompt people in Britain to hit the streets as well. The most likely scenario is that other countries, unable to pay for decent pensions out of taxation, will resort to borrowing or to printing more money — hitting Britain in the form of higher interest rates, higher inflation, a depreciating currency or all three.

It beggars belief that Europe is prepared to lock itself into a single currency for eternity without considering the implications of unfunded pensions 20 years on. There ought to be a special committee doing nothing else but acting as a devil's advocate drawing attention to all the things that could go wrong if countries with widely differing fiscal traditions pledge themselves to monetary union against a foolishly tight timetable and with unrealistic criteria. As it is, France and Germany closely followed by Italy, are using all sorts of accounting devices to pretend that their budget deficits will fall within the 3 per cent Maastricht ceiling by next year.

Yet that three per cent doesn't include any provision at all for the sleeping volcano of unfunded pensions. In Germany's case, full provision well into the next century could double the country's deficit as a proportion of GDP. The trouble with pensions is that it is extremely difficult to get the public interested until it is too late. If yesterday's report could propel the problem of unfunded pensions into the election campaign it would do us all a mighty favour. Meanwhile, no government should even think about irrevocably joining EMU until this issue has been thoroughly thrashed out and resolved.

At the moment Britain is relatively well off compared with the rest of the EU. This is partly for good reasons (a population that isn't ageing as fast as theirs and whose private pensions are financed by strong occupational schemes) and partly for bad reasons (we pay rotten state pensions). The committee reckons that the pensions gap — the net value of contributions less pensions paid — until 2070 is only 19 per cent of national output in the UK but 98 per cent of GDP for France, 113 per cent for Italy and 139 per cent for "fiscally prudent" Germany.

What is going to happen? Either these countries will have to cut their state pensions savagely thereby risking huge social upheaval (look how they took to the streets in France and Germany for minor changes), or they will have to go abundance on private pensions. This would mean that the current generation would be paying twice over — both for current pensioners out of taxation and for their own future pensions out of



**Letters to the Editor**

**Fat is a fraught issue**

CATHERINE Bennett's reading of *Fat is a Feminist Issue* (FIFI) intrigues me (Fashionable feast for fat ladies, October 30). FIFI regards women's eating problems in the second half of the 20th century, not as "all the fault of men". They arise from an unconscious response to the tensions in the mother-daughter relationship, to the conflicting demands of consumer society, to the confusions accompanying changing gender expectations and to the contradictory messages sent by the food and fashion industries that while women should be providers of food for others they should not eat easily themselves.

FIFI is neutral on size. It neither applauds nor discards fat. It suggests that fat women are stigmatised. Catherine Bennett's article is simple evidence of this. FIFI focuses on the symbolic meanings of fat and thin for the individual woman and how those individual meanings are constructed with culture. With a cursory nod to the fact that "Acute skininess is dangerous, occasionally fatal", she then goes on to abuse the overweight — "porkers", "ugly, unhealthy and greedy" and Dawn French's massive pear. Anorexics believe that gaining weight is the worst

disaster that could befall them. Bennett helps to confirm that. Perhaps obesity does shorten your life expectancy. Drinking does not do you much good either but pub regulars are spared this routine abuse, as are smokers, who take a one in five chance of being killed by their habit. It is a pity that Bennett finds fat people so unsightly but it cannot match the agony of watching your own child slowly and deliberately starving himself to death. S Ghelani, Shackerale Road, Wigston, Leicestershire.

DRESSING up her prejudice against fatties as concern for our health, Catherine Bennett states her true case when she says: "We don't like looking at it." Most bigotry is based on things that some people don't like looking at — skin colour, age, disability etc. Perhaps Catherine Bennett felt that she could get away with such an outpouring of bile in the *Guardian* because all fat people are thick underachievers who don't read broadsheet newspapers. Alison Palmer, Sandpiper Road, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6.

THE public or media mood seems to be that parents should be responsible when their children are horrid to teachers or other children. When a mother induces persistent cruelty on her small boy, amidst the apparently intermittent concern of her wider family and despite the genuine attempts to help by Social Services, then social workers are to blame. Curious. Derek Myers, Secretary, Association of Directors of Social Services (London branch), The Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 4DN.

**Passing the buck on abuse**

Social workers are at fault but relatives and ministers too

THE TABLOIDS are in no doubt. The blame for the vicious cruelty which Rikki Neave suffered before his murder at six years of age is placed firmly on social workers' shoulders. And indeed Cambridgeshire social services made mistakes which no one can defend. The awesome consequences of those mistakes were set out in yesterday's paper: a family of four children three of whom suffered repeated beatings, kicks, cigarette burns to the hand, hair pulled so hard that the scalp bled and a terrifying episode in which Rikki was held by his ankles and dangled over a bridge 15 foot above a river. Ruth Neave, the mother who perpetrated these crimes, was branded "Britain's most evil mother" by yesterday's *Mirror*.

mother, with a history of a serious personality disorder, was not just making serious threats against her children but actually physically abusing them. But it ill becomes the relatives — Rikki's father who abandoned him and an aunt — to talk about suing social services. Families too have responsibilities. There is no indication that Rikki's father tried to obtain custody yet a responsible father would have made himself aware of what was happening to his child. There will be two separate inquiries: one for Cambridgeshire social services by a respected outside agency and another by the social service inspectors for the Secretary of State. That is right. What we don't need — as long as the other two are published — is a full blown public inquiry. Far better that the money an inquiry would cost is invested in current child protection services.

Some of the mistakes have a familiar ring: lost files, crucial case notes which went missing, cries for help which went unheard or ignored. But there are some unfamiliar elements compared to earlier child abuse scandals. Cambridgeshire had been pouring in resources to help Neave and her children. Family aides had been going in daily to improve her parenting skills in line with the latest guidance of trying to keep families together. They only withdrew when her verbal abuse became excessive and an axe was found behind the door. They were right to try. Neave, herself, had had a horrific childhood, deprived of any parental love and shuttled around residential and foster homes. The mistake was in pursuing the support for so long when the

Relatives are not the only people who have been shamelessly ducking blame. Ministers too have been indulging in scapegoating others. Yet somewhere on their desks is a proposal which could seriously improve child protection: a national accreditation scheme under which only social workers with a guaranteed level of competence would handle complex cases. Absurdly, Rikki Neave's first social worker had only nine months experience. This was as unfair to the social worker as to Rikki. Instead of expressing "concern", ministers should be giving the go ahead — and the cash — for a practical scheme.

**Caustic column**

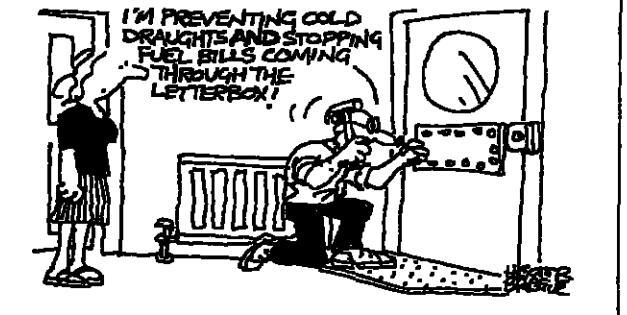
FAR from buying a house in Sussex, I am not moving from our beloved Bath, committed as we are to the city and the countryside around it (*Diary*, October 30).

Seeing I was never actively involved with the Newbury bypass protest. A cutting check would have reminded your idle diarist that it was the Swainswick/Bathaston bypass. Third, house or no house, I am certainly not "unaware" of the campaign to stop the appalling Highways Agency widening the A27 in Sussex. I have every sympathy with the A27 Queens Group — to the extent of contributing to their newsletter two years ago. Bel Mooney, Lansdown, Bath, Somerset BA1 9BW.

JULIE Burchill makes the elementary error of assuming that procreation with members of the opposite sex is the raison d'être of mankind, whilst apparently attempting to belittle the importance of other activities that they may choose to partake in (*Letters*, October 30).

For your information, Ms Burchill, women who drink and smoke during pregnancy place their foeti in extreme peril — hence the social stigma. Men who choose to play football and enjoy each other's company may well reduce their fertility, but harm no-one. This has no correlation to their sexual preferences, but even if it did I am surprised that someone who has so militantly stuffed her sexuality down the throats of the public in general should be so narrow minded and homophobic. Malcolm Cupis, 15 Queens Acre, Queens Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 6AL.

COULD something please be done about James Wood's ego? He takes yet more space in your newspaper (*Yes, Carmen*, there is some good fiction, October 31) to inform us that "David Lodge, Julian Barnes and William Boyd... are not serious writers." This is frivolous. Montagu Breann, 19 Lower Road, Chinnor, Oxfordshire OX9 4DT.



**Fuel for the VAT debate**

IS NOT the Labour Party policy to reduce VAT on domestic fuel as indicated by Gordon Brown yet another example of ill-conceived political opportunism? Nobody likes spending money on fuel, still less do we enjoy feeling the cold, and having to pay tax on it rubs salt into the wound. However, for every additional measure of fuel burned there is an environmental price to pay, and consequently the encouragement to burn more fuel by reducing its price is the wrong technical answer, and probably the wrong economic one also.

A radical and imaginative government would encourage improved fuel economy through tax incentives for better building insulation. Loft and cavity wall insulation and double glazed windows could all carry a zero, or even a reverse VAT rating. The labour costs for the installation of thermal insulation could also be zero-rated. Any resulting shortfall in income to the exchequer could be offset by a comparable rise in VAT on fuel and by increasing the stamp duty and council tax on energy-extravagant homes. J R Hill, 1 Dorset Road, Ash Vale, Nr Aldershot, Hampshire GU12 5EW.

**Why the Great Lakes weep blood**

THANKS to Chris McGreal's clear accounts we can begin to understand the majority of refugees to look towards a peaceful solution — be it repatriation or settlement.

The Hutu/Tutsi problem is a regional one because these groups are not confined just to Rwanda and Burundi. Artificial colonial boundaries can no longer obscure the geographical realities of Africa. The UN appears impotent and the UNHCR has been using sticking plaster when heart surgery is required. If some of the \$1.4 billion spent on the flawed humanitarian effort were used to support reconstruction in Rwanda, we would be witnessing more concerted attempts to promote peace. (Dr) Patricia Daley, Jesus College, 3 Ship Street, Oxford.

Please include a full postal address, even an e-mailed letter, and a telephone number. We may edit letters.

**Twists and turns in a moral maze**

GEOFF Mulgan's excellent article (*Rights and wrongs*, October 30) makes the point that moral values cannot be taught, only learnt. Traditional sources of authority, where respect was based on status, have largely disintegrated. Those in power have clawed their way to the top in the ruthless competitive ethos of Thatcher's Britain. If automatic respect is lost — no bad thing since it was largely based on fear — models become increasingly important.

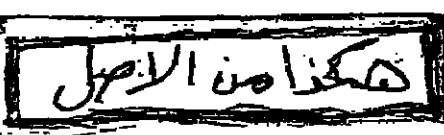
CHILDREN learn right from wrong by being moral agents. We can all remember moral skirmishes from our own childhoods: such as kicking a ball through the neighbour's window. But today, where do these encounters take place? No longer in the streets where we live. This generation is kept in by worried parents. It may be no coincidence that the home and the school are cracking under the strain. Tim Gill, Policy Officer, Children's Play Council, 8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE.

Only a return of fairness and real responsibility (which means publicly accepting blame for mistakes) will restore some sense of national honour. Our "anti-heroes" will move in to fill the authority vacuum and our children will imitate them rather than the discredited and increasingly pathetic leaders of politics, church, crown and law. Ian F Macilwain, Consultant Psychotherapist, Elmhill House, Royal Cornhill Hospital, 88 Cornhill Road, Aberdeen AB25 2ZH.

**A Country Diary**

NORTHUMBERLAND: With the Countryside Commission's plans for walkers alongside the 81-mile length of Hadrian's Wall approved, we spent a weekend walking from milecastle to milecastle. The early part of this pilgrimage through Tyne and Wear has to be on four wheels but the plan is to create a footpath that will provide access to some of the best sections, making use of a variety of existing public paths. Wall-end and South Shields host Roman forts but the gem is the temple of Antenoriticus, a raised-off heap of stone in the middle of a housing estate worth a visit. After Heddon-on-the-Wall and it is onto the military road and your own two feet following the marvelous switchback path up and down the tree-covered ridges of the Whin Sill, nature stretching miles in every direction. There can be few places in England where you can clearly see how a geological formation has dictated the form of a contemporary landscape. When we reached Chesters fort, the retired cus-

odian who worked here for 17 years, appeared to show us round. Then it was on to Houssteads. Sheltering against an interesting heap of stone described as a turret we could admire the panorama of the steep escarpments and sloping vales of the Wall dominating the skyline. A full grown hare was quite close. She appeared to be dozing but her lips were working and as we watched she nibbled at other tuft of grass and relapsed into apparent slumber. I have always seen a hare sit up to eat: this one resembled a cow chewing the cud. One of the joys of this walk is called loughs, locally called loughs, Crag lough, Broomlee and Greenlee. Whilst my husband spied for birds I picked blackberries. This year we have an abundance. It is not true that a heavy crop of berries foretells a hard winter; the reason is that our good summer ripened the wood and encouraged the formation of fruitbuds. VERONICA HEATH





Diary

Matthew Norman

F EARS mount for the mental health of Paul Johnson, once my sane and rational friend. In the Daily Mail, Paul has published a version of the Ten Commandments under the headline "The only guidelines our children need". Number Nine contains the injunction: "Never use weapons - they can kill." In the Spectator, meanwhile, Paul concludes an article on Neil Jordan with the hope that California be used for neutron bomb trials. When we rang to congratulate him on this splendid win double, we found him beset by amnesia. "You are professional liars," he said, preparatory to replacing the receiver. "who do not deserve to call yourselves journalists." Commandment Number Four - "Guard your words, in case they hurt" - had slipped from his mind. Worse still is the news that Paul now suffers from COD (Cynism Obsessive Disorder), the rare psychiatric illness which leads him to imagine everyone is Welsh. Robert Harris, a "rancorous Welsh leftie" in Paul's mind, writes to the Spectator to point out that he isn't Welsh - a repeat of a similar confusion in Piers Morgan's Paul and Paul, what is happening?

A COLLEAGUE calling the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for information has been directed to the website at <http://www.open.gov>. Having typed in the address, the first message demanded a password, and the second proudly boasted "access denied". Open government at its very best.

B RENT Council may be back under Labour control, but the fun continues. This week, it is a case of political cross-dressing. Labour, reports the Wembley Observer, is planning to privatise adult education, selling its services to the College of North West London; and, according to a press release from Tory councillor Irwin Van Colle, the Conservatives will be defending the social services budget against Labour plans for £2 million cuts.

C ARMEN CALIL, chairman of this year's Booker judges, continues to lash the enemies of the English novel. On Wednesday's Today programme, she privileged the Guardian's Peter Lennon with special treatment, highlighting him as one of the literary critics responsible for "the obsessive denigration of English fiction". He was the Sunday Times critic, she said, who babbled on about "multi-fractional metaphysical something or other" - a term which baffled her. It also baffled Peter, who rang Miss Callil to point out: a) that he had not worked for the Sunday Times for a decade; and b) he has never been a literary critic anyway. "I don't think I can help. I don't know why I said that," said Miss Callil. "I don't know what exactly you did say," replied Peter, who had missed the interview. "Neither do I," said Miss Callil. "Bye bye."

T HANKS to all who wrote in to put the theory that George Elliot did not, as was loosely suggested here yesterday, write Moll Flanders. It is a perfectly intelligent opinion, and you have every right to hold it.

I AM shocked by a malicious report on Rosie Boycott, new editor of the Independent on Sunday, in the New York Observer. According to Lorne Manly, Miss Boycott only took Monty Montgomery's offer "after botching her not-so-secret campaign to be next editor of (American) Esquire". Miss Boycott went to New York earlier this year. It is claimed, saying "I'm here for the job", and throwing schmoozy bashes. Only when she failed to impress executives at Hearst, the publisher, did she take the job. Spiteful nonsense, the lot of it. Shame on you, Lorne Manly.

T HANKS to Antony Hopper for reporting the impressive gallery of modern art decorating Burger King's central Manchester branch. It would be more impressive, should it decide to hang Matisse's Goldfish the right way up.



# Teacher who never failed his children

Commentary  
**Peter Preston**

KEEP thinking about RF Mackenzie this craven, caterwauling weak of moral panic. What on earth (or the Scottish heaven he surely inhabits) would Mackenzie make of Mantion Junior and the benighted Ridings of Halifax - not to mention the gulping National Forum on Values in Education and the Community?

He was always one of my heroes - the headmaster of Braehead Secondary school, Buchhaven, Fife, from 1967 until 1987 (when Old Labour on the county council and Old Labour in the Scottish Office closed him and it down). He gave them the screaming habits. He would have sent Chris Woodhead and Melanie Phillips into terminal shock. But he was a truly great teacher.

Mackenzie started from the children, not the system. He gathered round him a staff of like minds which fixed with purpose, which sought - from a grey, impoverished town of a town of a town - to turn out thinking, rounded human beings. They didn't stream or categorise at Braehead. They put uncounted hours into finding where a kid came from and what he or she could do that would build self-esteem and wider horizons. It was, awfully, experimental. That's why it was shut down. The state sector couldn't abide experiment.

"In the new chrome, streamlined, efficient comprehensives of the Labour administration," Mackenzie mordantly observed, "we shall all have to work harder to get examination results so that we shall have more technicians." He didn't live to meet Ken Baker or Gillian Shephard.

The Braehead issue was not that every school could or should be like that. Obvious impossibility. The issue was whether some rare schools which had the drive and the vision could be allowed to be like that. Obviously not. The "system" would only tolerate the conventional.

But convention operates to its own rules. If schools are to be standardised, monitored factories for the provision of grades and career opportunities, then their staff become workers in that factory. They can only deal with the raw material they're given. If that is a 10-year-old called Matthew Wilson who causes trouble, the factory rejects him (just as the system rejects Mackenzie). If, incredibly, 60 children in Halifax are then deemed disruptive (now with new, added mayhem), every factory in the land shakes in agonised debate. RF Mackenzie would have resigned in shame if one child at Braehead, never mind 60, had been swept from the board thus.

This week's National Forum happily identifies as one of its "Principles for Action", the need to "promote participation in our democracy". Been there: seen that. Fife county council tried imposed lessons on Citizenship 35 years ago. Arid tedium. The trouble, Mackenzie wrote, was he couldn't tell the real story. "Somebody once said that a true love story had

never been written because no lover could ever write the whole truth about it." Could he teach - alongside the dedicated work of many - the contrapuntal facts about Fife's lumbering machinery, behind-the-scenes fixing and ignorance? Of course not. Would he, alive today, be able to deliver the Neil Hamilton lecture on "making truth and integrity priorities in public life" - as the Forum puts it? Or the Kevin Maxwell lecture on "helping people to know about the law and legal processes"?

RF Mackenzie never claimed that he was right, in the sense that what he believed and what he achieved could be endlessly extrapolated across the nation. He merely hoped he and his school had a right to exist. Hope denied. The politicians

Schools, in his bitter experience, didn't mould society. The expectations of society moulded schools

and many parents, replicating convention, saw him off. It was Mission Impractical. And yet, in the deepest sense, Braehead Secondary was a moral school. It didn't stick a Forum mission statement on the wall hailing "loyalty, trust and confidence" or "respect for the dignity of all people". It lived those things, seeking explicitly to replace the decline of Christian underpinning (then as now)

not just by alternative classroom texts but by the community of pupils and teachers together. Old Labour lowered the boom. New Labour would probably not raise it in the first place.

We ought, I think, to be clear about current panic. Bob Mac, as ever, would manage a melancholy smile. Schools, in his bitter experience, didn't mould society. The expectations of society moulded schools. They squeezed out the time or ability to care or to try something different for a different, small human being. The thought that a couple of phrases about the sanctity of "two-parent marriages" could redeem the world would make him guffaw. This is malign parody of the arguments which laid him low 30 years ago. Schools can't achieve much, but they can achieve a little: he got chopped for that achievement.

To remember Mackenzie now, to pluck him from the mists of forgetfulness, is really to establish the basic conundrum. His way - his separate, moral way - was no panacea for a country short of technologists or mathematicians. But, in his life, he showed that there was also a choice and a balance. Authority, even then invoking past models, decreed that there could be no choice, no deviation. Now, with even less deviation, we seek to impose what we have swept away. Would the sage of Braehead have lingered long over such imbecility? Probably not. I think he was always more interested in the future of society than in ignorant reconstruction of fusty memories.

He was a modern, moral man.

# How Mr Turton soured the Good Old Days

Mark Steel

A PECULIAR thing happens in your mid-30s, when for the first time you are invited to take part in the world of nostalgia.

When I was a boy I would listen to adults pining for the old days of unloosed back doors, family sing-songs and hideouts that "never did me any harm". From my perspective they seemed to be saying: "Then this little bastard was born and the world became a cesspit."

But recently, as a 36-year-old listening to the latest appeals for a return to the age of morality, it suddenly dawned on me that the Golden Age should terrify my generation, because we are the generation that remembers Mr Turton.

Mr Turton would insist on utter silence, not only during his lessons but also, when he was on duty, in the dinner hall. Almost unable to eat through being knocked with fear, hundreds of kids would sneak their meatballs, indicating with a nod of the head if they wanted the pepper pot, as to ask in words would surely result in the dreaded slipper.

Once, a boy next to me reached for a water jug and knocked a plastic cup off the table. The echoey clanging as it bounced shattered the silence with the drama of the first slave who declared that he was Spartacus. Spared the slipper, he was made to abandon his dinner and spend the next hour facing a wall with hands on head.

Mr Turton was however a fine sportsman, often wandering into our games of cricket, snatching the bat and hitting the next ball into a garden. There was no eight-year-old who could bowl to Mr Turton; not on any wicket.

With so many violent teachers at that time, it was inevitable that many of the kids would follow suit. This was all to the good, I was told by adults, as it prepared me for later life. They were clearly mistaken. I don't know of a single workplace where the filing clerk is likely to walk behind you, kick you in the

series of instructions that made it sound as if together we were telling us how to put together an MFI cupboard. The result of all this was that I drew a chart on my bedroom wall, with a line for each day left before I could leave, ticking off the days in the way that prisoners look forward to being released. Like many others of my age, my fascination with history, literature and languages could only begin once I left the place that was supposed to teach them.

The peculiar thing about being in your mid-30s is that near the first time you can say: "Yes, I remember those days, and thank Christ they're gone."

# Clinton's party policy

David Bonior

While the Democrats are straining every nerve to regain control of Congress, Martin Walker asks if the President has a different agenda: to do a Tory Blair and re-invent his party

THIS is the last chance for the Democratic party. If they cannot regain the House and Senate next Tuesday, riding the coat-tails of what looks to be a landslide for President Clinton, and with Newt Gingrich's Republicans thoroughly discredited, it is not easy to see how they could ever again become the Congressional majority.

The entire Democratic machine has made an all-out effort, from President Clinton's own impeccably drilled campaign to the trade union movement with its \$35 million TV ads to unseat 70 vulnerable Republican Congressmen.

The organised women's groups like Emily's List have strained every nerve and raised every dime to elect Democrats. Jesse Jackson and the Black caucus and the Hispanic organisations are campaigning tirelessly to deliver their block votes.

Right now, it looks as if this Herculean combined effort, the most sustained Democratic drive that most party professionals can remember, might not be enough. The might of history, of the conservative drift of the South, and the suburbanisation of the northern cities, are proving too strong. Depending on the voter turnout and the wild card of the 15 million newly

registered voters, the Republicans have an excellent chance of maintaining razor-thin majorities in House and Senate.

There is a scurrilous theory that this may not entirely dismay President Clinton. One of the main themes of his career has been to learn the lessons of the Republican victories of 1968 and 1972, 1980 and 1984 and 1988, the years when Roosevelt's legacy of the natural Democratic majority was slowly, decisively shredded.

Eleven years ago, Bill Clinton and Al Gore and some other Southern Democrats helped found the Democratic Leadership Council. The immediate cause for that was the defeat of Walter Mondale at Ronald Reagan's hand in the 1984 election. The deeper cause was the fear that Democrats were becoming unelectable, seen ever since the Vietnam war by their blue-collar base as soft on crime and soggy on national security, and too inclined to spend their taxes on welfare (by which they meant blacks).

SOME of those who helped form the DLC had been involved in the centralising mission since 1972, when they joined Democrats for Richard Nixon. The Clinton-Gore manifesto in 1992 - 100,000 more cops, a middle-class tax cut, free

# With so many violent teachers at that time, it was inevitable that many of the kids would follow suit

series of instructions that made it sound as if together we were telling us how to put together an MFI cupboard. The result of all this was that I drew a chart on my bedroom wall, with a line for each day left before I could leave, ticking off the days in the way that prisoners look forward to being released. Like many others of my age, my fascination with history, literature and languages could only begin once I left the place that was supposed to teach them.

The peculiar thing about being in your mid-30s is that near the first time you can say: "Yes, I remember those days, and thank Christ they're gone."

Another there are some parts of the code issued by the National Forum for Values in Education and the Community that should be implemented. For instance, the bit that encourages "challenging values or actions which may be harmful to individuals or communities". If only that had been in place in the 80s. After assembly every headmaster would have had to say: "Right, children, here's your buckets. We're all going down to the shopping centre to collect for the miners."

With so many violent teachers at that time, it was inevitable that many of the kids would follow suit. This was all to the good, I was told by adults, as it prepared me for later life. They were clearly mistaken. I don't know of a single workplace where the filing clerk is likely to walk behind you, kick you in the

series of instructions that made it sound as if together we were telling us how to put together an MFI cupboard. The result of all this was that I drew a chart on my bedroom wall, with a line for each day left before I could leave, ticking off the days in the way that prisoners look forward to being released. Like many others of my age, my fascination with history, literature and languages could only begin once I left the place that was supposed to teach them.

The peculiar thing about being in your mid-30s is that near the first time you can say: "Yes, I remember those days, and thank Christ they're gone."

Another there are some parts of the code issued by the National Forum for Values in Education and the Community that should be implemented. For instance, the bit that encourages "challenging values or actions which may be harmful to individuals or communities". If only that had been in place in the 80s. After assembly every headmaster would have had to say: "Right, children, here's your buckets. We're all going down to the shopping centre to collect for the miners."

With so many violent teachers at that time, it was inevitable that many of the kids would follow suit. This was all to the good, I was told by adults, as it prepared me for later life. They were clearly mistaken. I don't know of a single workplace where the filing clerk is likely to walk behind you, kick you in the

series of instructions that made it sound as if together we were telling us how to put together an MFI cupboard. The result of all this was that I drew a chart on my bedroom wall, with a line for each day left before I could leave, ticking off the days in the way that prisoners look forward to being released. Like many others of my age, my fascination with history, literature and languages could only begin once I left the place that was supposed to teach them.

# CENTRAL AFRICAN EMERGENCY

Over one million lives are at risk in war-torn Zaire as refugees from Rwanda and Burundi - as well as people in Zaire itself - are caught up in a desperate situation. Soon they will have no food, no water and nowhere to go.

CARE has over 14 years' experience in the region. We need to deliver emergency relief NOW to help prevent this crisis becoming a human catastrophe.

CARE can deliver life-saving emergency relief to those most in need. £25 from you could help CARE provide vital food and emergency supplies to help thousands of ordinary men, women and children.

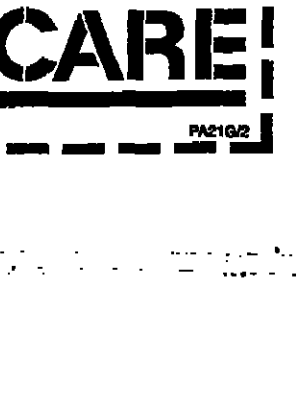
Your help makes a real difference. PLEASE RING NOW ON 0990 200 660.

YES, I WANT TO HELP. Here is my donation of: £100 £30 £25 £18 £

(Cheque made payable to CARE) OR Please debit my Access/VISA/Mastercard/CAF Charity Card/Delta

Expiry Date Signature Name Address Postcode

Please send to: CARE International UK, FREEPOST, 36-38 Southampton Street, London, WC2E 7BR. Registered Charity 292506



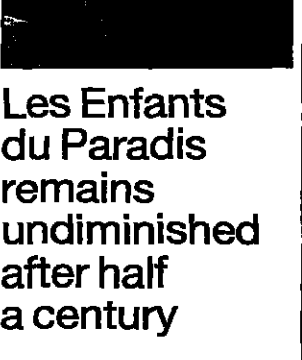


Marcel Carné

Paradise lost and found

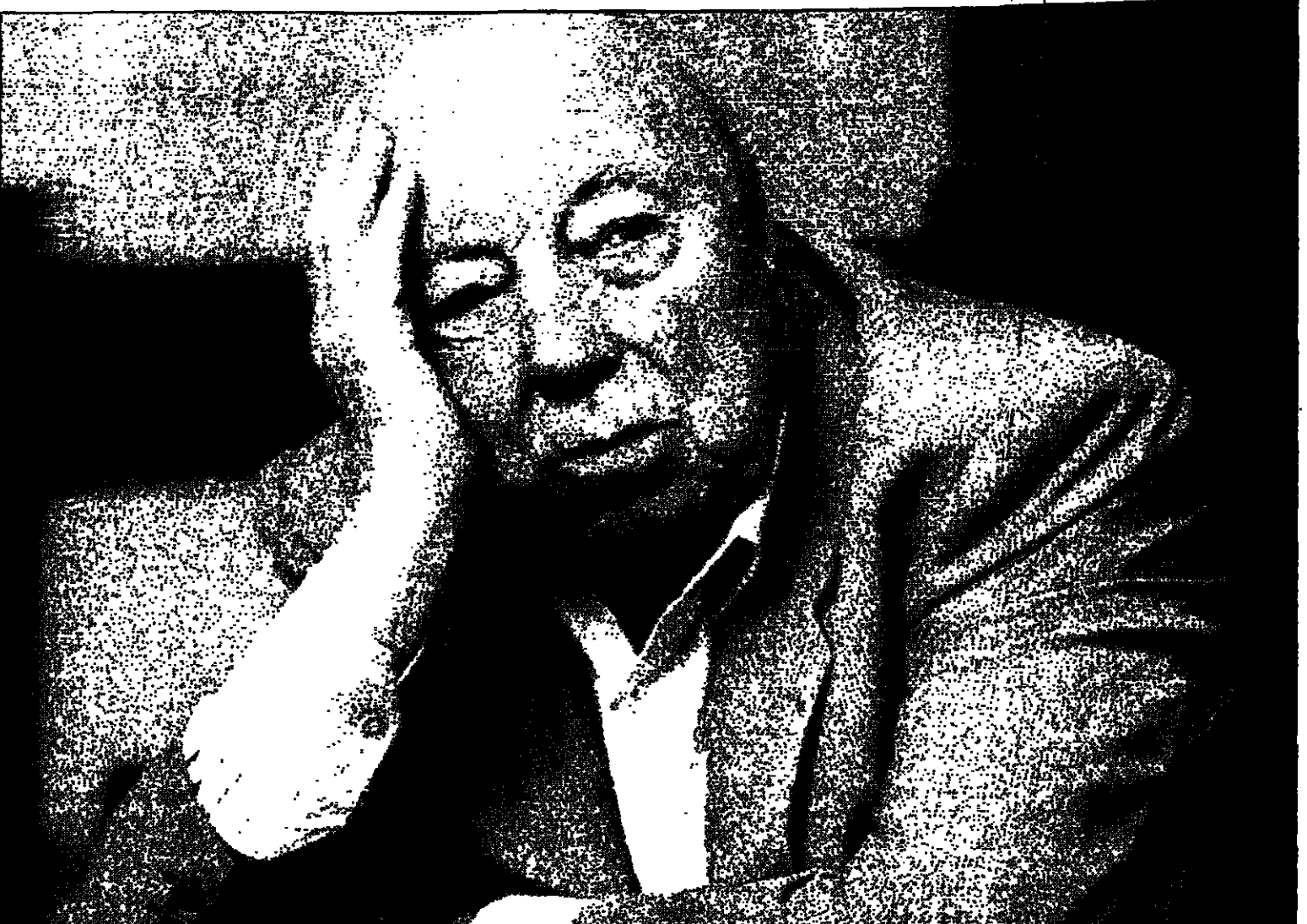
MARCEL Carné was the youngest and the last survivor of the generation of outstanding directors...

1928, he bought a 35mm camera and film stock to make a charming, observant documentary about holidaying working-class Parisians...



Les Enfants du Paradis remains undiminished after half a century

after the partnership ended. In Jersey, Prévost, Carné and another futurist regular collaborator, the composer Joseph Kosma, gave style to a sentimental melodrama...



Marcel Carné, above, and left, Jean-Louis Barrault plays the mime in Carné's masterpiece, Les Enfants du Paradis

haunting allegory of the relationship and contradictions of life and art. The film's mastery, novel-style narrative and visual magnificence betrayed nothing of the difficulties of production...

returned to Carné however to ensure the commercial success of an adaptation of Georges Simenon's La Marie du port (1950).

HE felt that his tract on police brutality, Les Assassins de l'Ordre (1971), was the victim of deliberate sabotage.

direct a Franco-Italian-German co-production, Mouché, based on a Maupassant story.

ism, the lasting insecurities of a self-educated man, and inarticulate sensitivity about his short stature.

Derek Tangye

The world beat a path to his door

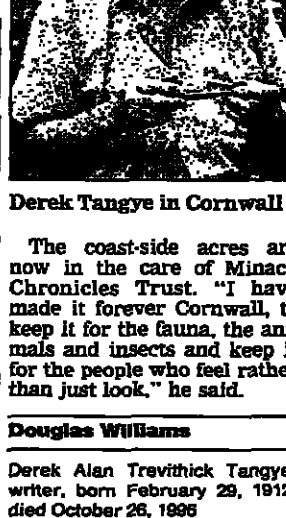
THE author Derek Tangye, who has died aged 84, was a national newspaper journalist and his wife, Jeannie, was the head of public relations for the Savoy Hotel Group...

nish years, a quietly popular series of tales of life depicting Jeannie as the heroine.

and the remoteness from so-called civilisation.

way down the long winding lane to his home.

Herbert to the former deputy prime minister George Brown.



Derek Tangye in Cornwall

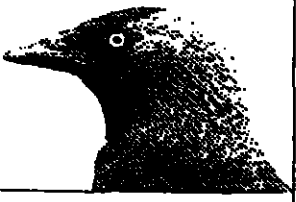
Birthdays

Umberto Agnelli, former deputy chairman, Fiat, 83; Victoria de los Angeles, soprano, 73; Jacques Attali, former president, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, 63; Prof Sir Hermann Bondi, physicist, humanist, 77; Sharron Davies, swimmer, 34; Nigel Dempster, diarist, 55; Lou Donaldson, saxophonist, 70; Tazewell Firth, stage and costume designer, 61; Bruce Grocott, Labour MP, 58; Mark Hughes, footballer, 33; Roger Kellaway, composer and pianist, 57; Andrew Knight, former chairman, News International, 57; Ted Lovell, smoulder commentator, 78; Dr J Dickson Mabon, former Labour minister, 71; Naomi Mitchison, novelist, 89; Nick Owen, broadcaster, 49; Gary Player, golfer, 61; John Pullen, rugby player, 55; Gerald Ratner, jeweller, 47; Lee Ritzenour, jazz guitarist, 43.

Death Notices

ALL OTHER Journalist and broadcaster, died peacefully in London, 28th October 1986, loving husband of Lynne, adored father to Simon and Sandra and beloved grandfather of Kaitlyn. Funeral Friday November 14th, 11.30am, St. Mary's, Upper Street, Millington. Memorial Service to be held at a later date. Flowers may be sent to Heaton, County Durham.

Jackdaw



TOMORROW I will begin with the Floor homology seminar (Wednesday 4pm, Room 1). The first lecture is of a preparatory nature. The object is to show how Feynman path integrals in phase space with quadratic Hamiltonians lead to the Schrödinger equation and the metaplectic representation.

understand it. Thanks to David Fowler, who sent it in from Warwick University.

Slow line-up JOHN Williams had to pick his wife's tortoise, Tara, from a police identity parade of seven others, after Tara went missing from her home at Sedbury, Gloucestershire.

Science shop HUMAN beings walk the way they drive - which is to say that Americans tend to keep to the right when they stroll down shopping mall corridors or city sidewalks.

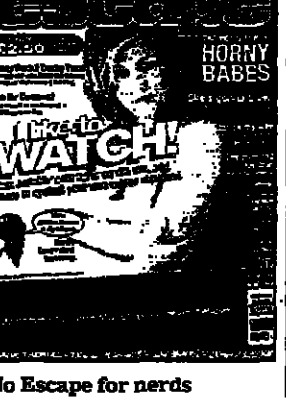
buy of a T-shirt or a magazine. This is also why Fico Underhill tells his retail clients to make sure that their window displays are canted, preferably to both sides but especially to the left, so that a potential shopper approaching the store on the inside of the sidewalk will see the shopper with the least impeded view of the store window - can see the display from at least 25 feet away.

Of course, a lot depends on how fast the potential shopper is walking. Paco, in his previous life as an urban geographer in Manhattan, spent a great deal of time thinking about walking speeds as he listened in on the great debates of the 1970s, over whether the traffic lights in midtown should be timed to facilitate the movement of cars or to facilitate the movement of pedestrians and so break up the big platoons that move down Manhattan sidewalks.

He knows that the faster you walk, the more your peripheral vision narrows, so you become unable to pick up visual clues as quickly as someone who is just ambulating along. He knows, too, that people who walk fast take a surprising amount of time to

slow down - just as it takes a good stretch of road to change gears with a stick-shift auto and reluctant as you get down from walking speed to shopping speed - particularly if they've just had to navigate a treacherous parking lot or hurry to make the light at 5th and Fifth.

The danger of shopping manipulation described in the New Yorker.



No Escape for nerds

shoppers enter a store it's going to take them from five to 15 paces to adjust to the light and reluctant as you get down from walking speed to shopping speed - particularly if they've just had to navigate a treacherous parking lot or hurry to make the light at 5th and Fifth.

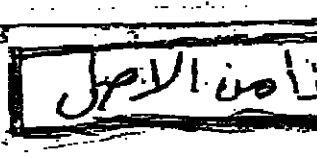
The tragedy THE VENUE: In the Derbyshire suite of Southampton's Hotel Isis the future of computer games is being enacted. The room is packed with 30 or so young men, the youngest of whom looks about seven, the eldest going on 60. Thirty-odd PCs sit on a bunch of tables.

days. Some stay in and watch James Bond. Others visit relatives. This Bank Holiday, the people here have made the pilgrimage from all over the country to join in a weekend of virtual battles of Doom, of Quake. All have brought their own PCs. There are old scores to be settled, and new glory to be had. Many know each other on-line on CompuServe. Many have fought and exchanged insults over the modem. Many proudly wear their T-shirts emblazoned with their heroic "screen names" (Slayer, Eubanks, Mort Madness and Phantom). Many look like they're barely strong enough to deliver a Chinese burn.

Emily Sheffield

Girobank logo and advertisement text: Girobank announces that with effect from close of business on 30 October 1986 its Base Rate was increased from 5.75% to 6.00% per annum.

Media empire go Comput bug halt broker





Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

## Computer bug halts brokerage

Don Atkinson and Mark Tran in New York

**F**IDELITY Brokerage, one of Britain's biggest agency stockbrokers, has been forced by chronic problems in its computer settlement system to suspend taking on new business.

A squad of experts has been sent in by Fidelity's US parent — one of the world's leading investment groups — and City regulators are monitoring urgent efforts to remedy the problems.

Any of Fidelity's 35,000 British clients who have suffered losses because of the computer breakdown would be compensated, said the Securities and Futures Authority, the agency that regulates stockbroking.

Fidelity announced yesterday it would suspend for up to three months the taking on of any new clients and the launching of new products.

Tarot, the share-settlement system, was installed last spring; shortly afterwards a wave of complaints from clients deluged Fidelity.

Some had not been paid their dividends, others lost tax breaks because of delays in processing paperwork for personal equity plans (PEPs).

Payments were made to the wrong accounts, there were delays in executing instructions and inaccurate portfolio statements were drawn up. Some complaints were subject to delays and letters went unanswered.

About 200 Fidelity clients have taken their business elsewhere as a result of the problems with Tarot.

In August, the SFA confirmed was helping Fidelity to sort out complaints from the public. Fidelity agreed to stop advertising for new business until the problems were cleared up.

Yesterday the group said: "Progress is being made, but more time is needed." It would take no new customers "until [we]... can demonstrate to the SFA that the service offered... meets [our]... normal high standards."

## SFA plans war games with US

**T**HE Securities and Futures Authority is to conduct "war games" with its US opposite number, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to prepare for emergencies like the collapse of Barings.

Chairman Nicholas Duracher and chief executive Richard Farrant yesterday told MPs on the backbench Treasury Select Committee that the two regulators would begin testing their combined responses to hypothetical financial emergencies early next year.

"[We have]... offered, and will offer, compensation on an *ex gratia* basis to any existing customer who has suffered loss as a direct consequence of... computer problems."

Phil West of Fidelity said the company was filing monthly reports to the SFA. "We have lost clients, we regret that," he said. As regards compensation: "If any client... as a result of errors or problems... has actually suffered some kind of loss, we would be duty-bound."

Tarot is the product of a London company, TCA Synergis. Terry Chapman, chairman of TCA Synergis's board, said the system had been successfully installed at about one in four of all UK brokers, including the Barclays Stockbrokers operation. It was "the market leader for settlement systems."

It is thought Synergis believes the installation of Tarot coincided with a flood of business into Fidelity Brokerage and that contributed to the problems.

Fidelity's difficulties in Britain come at a time when America's largest unit-trust group is losing favour with investors in its home market. Fidelity usually attracts the lion's share of investments in mutual funds (unit trusts).



**PILKINGTON**, the world's biggest glass maker, admitted yesterday that it had been battered by difficult trading conditions in Europe, writes Ian King. Announcing a 27 per cent dive in half-year pre-tax

profits to £75 million, chairman Sir Nigel Radcliff, seated, and chief executive Roger Leverton said weaker prices in France and Germany were mainly to blame. Pilkington said its

businesses elsewhere were performing well, however, particularly those in North and South America. In all, sales jumped by 12 per cent to £1.2 billion, boosted by the acquisition of the Italian group SIV.

Meanwhile, Mr Leverton said Pilkington expected to reduce costs by some £70 million over the next year. Pilkington shares closed up 1/4 at 170p on the statement.

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

## Telecom to bail out France for monetary union

John Palmer in Brussels

**T**HE European Commission yesterday formally accepted plans by the French government to use £5.5 billion from the state-owned France Telecom to help it qualify for monetary union.

The money, which will be used to help reduce the nation's 1997 budget deficit, will be handed over in return for the state taking responsibility for the company's pensioners.

Without the transaction, the French budget deficit for 1997, the year countries will be judged on for monetary union qualification, risked being more than 3.5 per cent. This compares with a target figure of 3 per cent set out in the Maastricht treaty.

In spite of grumbles from the British and German governments, the Commission's decision is backed by the majority of the 15 EU member states.

The director general of Eurostat, Yves Franchet, decided this morning to accept the French government proposal, a European Commission spokesman told a news conference in Brussels yesterday.

In spite of this, some German government officials have complained that the decision to approve the money transfer has set a bad precedent. A number of other governments are also discussing with Eurostat how the technical rules governing what is and is not included in the definition of a budget deficit might apply to them.

The French government regards the agreement with France Telecom as entirely legitimate since it involves a transfer of capital to the state and is not a mere financial device. "That is our view as

well. And it is also the view of a majority of national government experts who have studied this question in detail," a spokesman for the Irish Presidency of the European Union observed.

German government unopposed the France Telecom question comes after the Commission decision not to define in figures the economic circumstances under which a country taking part in the single currency might be given temporary permission to run a higher budget deficit.

The German government is virtually alone in insisting that a precise fall in GDP should be agreed to define "temporary and exceptional" circumstances and so trigger an easing of the budget deficit constraints.

The precise wording of the pact, which will commit countries in the Euro bloc to long-term monetary stability, will be discussed by finance ministers later this month before being submitted for their approval to EU heads of government at the Dublin summit in December.

The German government, fearful of the possibility of an anti-EMU backlash from the influential Bundesbank, is still taking a tough position over the future of the stability pact and the way in which the Maastricht treaty criteria should be applied when countries are judged for monetary union.

"The Germans are, naturally enough, adopting hard ball tactics over issues such as France Telecom and the terms of the EMU stability pact," a senior Commission official said, adding: "But the great majority of member states take the same view as the Commission. It is taking a question of political judgement for ministers when a situation arises which justifies relaxing the rules."

## Warburg lands £1 bn Japan deal

Patrick Donovan City Editor

**S**BC WARBURG, the investment group, looks set to become the first European bank to clinch a big international fund-raising deal for a leading Japanese company, by winning the mandate to raise 200 billion yen (£1.08 billion) for the Tokyo-based Fuji Bank.

The deal, which will be announced within the next couple of weeks, represents a vital breakthrough in SBC Warburg's attempts to challenge Wall Street's virtual monopoly on handling international equity offerings for

large Japanese companies. Over the last four years, the biggest US investment banks have helped to arrange more than 15 trillion yen worth of financing deals for Japanese banks.

But SBC Warburg is understood to have been awarded the mandate for a final shortlist including two US groups, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley.

Failure has come as a bitter blow to the two "bulge bracket" banks because of the huge amount of work they put in to bidding for the contract. The two US banks had been widely expected to win, because they have a track record in handling interna-

tional offerings. SBC Warburg is leading the huge Euro-conversion offer along with the Japanese domestic banks Nomura and Yemaichi. SBC Warburg declined to make any comment yesterday. But other well-placed market sources confirm that the mandate has been formally signed, with a public announcement due over the next couple of weeks.

The decision to award the mandate to a big European bank is being interpreted as evidence of an important strategic shift in favour of the City of London by Japanese companies looking to raise finance. The SBC Warburg mandate suggests that Fuji

Bank has been persuaded that Europe's financial markets are a safer bet than their transatlantic counterpart.

The top executive who headed the Hill Samuel merchant banking business is quitting the parent company, Lloyds TSB. Executive director Hugh Freedberg has been left with no role because of the merger of his business with the main Lloyds corporate banking arm, which began at the start of the year. Mr Freedberg is to join the management consultancy firm Korn Ferry. A spokeswoman conceded that he had effectively been made redundant but declined to comment on the size of any pay-off.

## Cowie's £282m proposed offer for British Bus referred to the MMC

Keith Harper Transport Editor

**C**OWIE Group's proposed £282 million takeover of British Bus, making it Britain's third-biggest bus company, was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission yesterday on the grounds that it could create unfair competition.

Announcing the referral — the second in as many months in an industry which has seen plenty of predatory behaviour since deregulation in the 1980s — consumer affairs minister John Taylor said the deal could affect competition in south London and parts of Surrey and Kent.

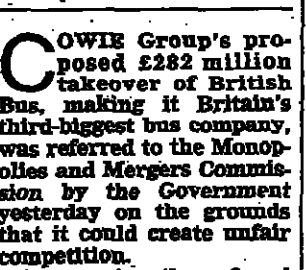
Mr Taylor said the MMC inquiry did not prejudice the takeover as being against the public interest. But it was immediately seen as an attempt by ministers to show they are prepared to take tough action

against high-profile takeovers ahead of the election. The decision took the City by surprise, wiping £23 million off Cowie's stock market value.

Cowie, which owns 6,400 vehicles, is based in Sunderland but owns two of the London bus companies which were franchised in 1994.

British Bus was formed in 1992 after a management buy-out from the coach and rail operator National Ex-

## Fares please!



press, and when Cowie took it over there were estimates it would hold its market share by more than 10 per cent. Cowie said last night it has already started looking at the number of routes it operates in London. The MMC has to report back to the Government by March, and Cowie believes the structure of these companies does not operate against the public interest or "prejudice competition".

## Jobs HQ cuts 1,750 staff

Chris Barrie and Rebecca Smithers

**M**ORE than 1,750 jobs are to be cut at the Employment Service as part of a three-year cost-cutting programme.

The plans, outlined to staff yesterday, will see more than half the government agency's headquarters staff axed, and they provoked condemnation from the Labour Party and trade unions last night.

The brunt of the job losses will fall on the Sheffield and London offices, but nine regional offices will also be hit. The plan is part of measures aimed at lopping one-third off the headquarters pay bill of £70 million. The Shadow education and

## Jobs HQ cuts 1,750 staff

employment secretary, David Blunkett, said the redundancies in the Sheffield area and have a "devastating knock-on effect". He added: "It is deplorable that the Government is making decisions that they are unlikely to have to implement themselves." Richard Caborn, Labour MP for Sheffield Central, condemned the plans. The Government was ripping the heart out of the Employment Service "at a time when there is a desperate need for more investment in skills training and job creation", he said.

Keith Wylie, national officer for the Public Services, Tax and Commerce Union, said the cuts came as employees struggle to implement the new Job Seekers Allowance.

## Notebook

### Keeping it equal in the boardroom



Edited by Mark Milner

**T**HE Confederation of British Industry is not enamoured with two-tier boards, especially not of the kind widely adopted in continental Europe. It argues supervisory boards slow decision making, put a distance between executives and their shareholders and have not been shown to enhance value. It worries they could duplicate the role of audit and remuneration committees.

But the CBI is in danger of undermining its argument for "collegiate" or "sharing" boards by raising the question of whether non-executive directors should bear equal liability before the law as executive directors for failures such as fraud. It argues that even if non-executives ask the right questions, a determined executive can still pull the wool over their eyes.

But surely such a legal demarcation within the boardroom leans towards a two-tier board structure? It would place more emphasis on the supervisory role of the non-executives than on their contribution to discussions about (say) five-year plans and strategic direction of the companies on whose boards they sit.

The CBI faces a dilemma. Its members who are executives don't want policemen looking over their shoulders. But they have to hire non-executives and want people willing to make more than a token contribution to board discussions. At the same time, those members who act as non-executives do not want to be exposed to potentially costly lawsuits because executives have led them up the garden path.

Clearly, non-executive directors are at a disadvantage compared with their executive counterparts. It can be uncomfortable. But taking on a directorship should mean a recognition of responsibility. Judges can decide in specific cases whether non-executives were negligent or genuinely did their best to uncover problems. Statute law should continue to regard them as equal members of the boardroom.

## On the buses

**A**S THE election approaches, the Government is showing signs of anxiety over the deregulation of the bus industry, which it sold for a song in the late 1980s. With the exception of London where individual franchise companies are still regulated by London Transport, competition has had free rein. Go down some of the main feeder routes into Manchester today, and you will discover

## Jobs HQ cuts 1,750 staff

employment secretary, David Blunkett, said the redundancies in the Sheffield area and have a "devastating knock-on effect". He added: "It is deplorable that the Government is making decisions that they are unlikely to have to implement themselves." Richard Caborn, Labour MP for Sheffield Central, condemned the plans. The Government was ripping the heart out of the Employment Service "at a time when there is a desperate need for more investment in skills training and job creation", he said.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.97	France 7.96	Italy 2.04	Singapore 2.22
Austria 151.50	Germany 2.07	Malta 0.2610	South Africa 7.35
Belgium 48.35	Greece 374.00	Netherlands 2.8510	Spain 162.00
Canada 2.11	Hong Kong 12.13	New Zealand 2.22	Sweden 10.40
Cyprus 0.7185	India 67.29	Norway 10.04	Switzerland 1.95
Denmark 6.111	Ireland 0.8285	Portugal 225.70	Turkey 148.985
Finland 7.22	Israel 5.25	Saudi Arabia 6.00	USA 1.5740

Sourced by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).



Brands Hatch gears up for change



£9m issue to fund leisure expansion

**Sarah Whitebloom**  
**I**T MAY have made its name from racing, but Brands Hatch Leisure — owner of the internationally renowned motor-sports track — made clear yesterday that fast cars would be only part of its future. Unveiling a £9.3 million new issue — which values the company at £34.3 million — Brands Hatch said it planned to use part of the cash to invest in entertainment and conference facilities as well as rally schools. About £4 million will go to repay bank debt, which totalled around £13 million at the end of August.

though best known for events such as the British Formula Three, the firm — which also owns Oulton Park, Snetterton and Cadwell Park — aims to promote "extra activities". Of the money raised, £3 million will go on catering and conference facilities. The company plans to spend a further £2 million on updating the grandstand and infrastructure at Brands Hatch race track. Brands Hatch made a pre-tax profit of £1.6 million in the eight months to the end of August. The shares will be floated at 157p, and first dealings are expected to start on 7 November.

Murdoch pulls Warner plug

**Lisa Buckingham and Jonathan Corfine**  
**M**EDIA empires Time Warner and News Corporation were at loggerheads last night after BSkyB pulled the plug on today's high profile launch of the Warner Channel. Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation is furious with Time Warner for refusing to allow its Fox Television's all-news channel on the US company's New York cables. Mr Murdoch, whose News International owns 40 per cent of the satellite network, has therefore retaliated by

refusing to carry Time Warner's family entertainment channel in the UK. "We've got some problems," said Barbara Brogna, a spokeswoman for Warner in the US. Chris Haynes, a spokesman for BSkyB, would say only: "We are still in discussions." Time Warner has won a preliminary injunction in a Manhattan federal court and has requested a permanent order blocking New York from carrying Fox News on its public access channels. The news came as BSkyB was braced for a showdown with investors at today's annual meeting in London over plans to continue to in-

stallate most directors from being fired by shareholders. The issue comes up because one of BSkyB's main shareholders, Chargeurs de France, has altered the structure of its stake and the broadcaster wants to maintain protection for its two directors. Chargeurs' stake is now held through newsreel company Pathé with the same two directors, Michel Crepon and Jerome Seydoux. The investment advisory group, Pirc, said yesterday that protecting directors nominated by big shareholders against re-election was inimical to the idea of equal rights for all shareholders. Protection from re-election

was enshrined in the articles of BSkyB when a slice of its shares was floated on the Stock Market. News International has three executive directors, and Granada, another leading investor, also nominates protected directors. A vote by 25 per cent of shareholders against re-election is needed and, says Pirc, investors with directors' rights account for less than the 75 per cent needed to swing the vote. Pathé's directors will have to stand for re-election before shareholders vote on transferring their immunity. BSkyB said it thought the institutions had misunderstood the issue, though pro-

tecting directors against re-election contravenes the expectations of the Association of British Insurers and the National Association of Pension Funds. The controversy has been fuelled by BSkyB's practice of allowing directors to nominate substitutes for board meetings they cannot attend — which opened the way for Mr Murdoch's daughter Elizabeth to be named as a substitute by three News International directors. Pirc said yesterday this was not in the interests of minority shareholders as alternate directors are not subject to election and it can mean that an executive director substi-

tutes for a non-executive director. In addition to Ms Murdoch there are five other alternate directors who, Pirc estimates, could comprise 35 per cent of board membership. BSkyB will today unveil first quarter figures which are expected to allow News Corporation an improved valuation for its plans to issue convertible preference shares against its BSkyB stake to raise about £817 million for digital TV expansion. Sources close to BSkyB said last night that the company was unlikely today to disclose details of the contracts it has signed with suppliers for a digital black box decoder.

News in brief

LBS brands Clarke's rate rise unnecessary

**THE** Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's decision to raise base rates this week was unnecessary, the latest overview of the economy from the London Business School says today. Fears of inflation rising on the back of the pick-up in consumer spending are misplaced, the report by the Centre for Economic Forecasting at the LBS says, and rates could have been left on hold until after the General Election. Another report published yesterday warned that an explosion in the number of state-dependent pensioners and faster integration of global markets threatens to tip Western countries into an era of protectionism, xenophobic politics and economic decline. Unsettled Times, by the Chatham House Forum said that with markets decoupling from nation states and governments engaged in a fierce competition for "fugitive capital", the only escape route for industrial countries is to push up retirement ages, tighten welfare budgets and invest in skills. — Sarah Ryle and Richard Thomas

Lloyd's reviews regulation

**THE** Lloyd's of London insurance market yesterday announced plans for a review of its regulatory structure in an attempt to ensure that past lapses are not repeated. The review will look at whether regulation of the £10 billion-a-year market should be supervised by an organisation outside Lloyd's. It will also examine policyholder protection and the composition of Lloyd's internal supervisory bodies. — Lisa Buckingham

Body Shop's Asian pick-up

**GROWTH** in Body Shop's Asian markets and regeneration in Australia boosted profits of the health and beauty products retailer by 30 per cent to £11.8 million in the first half of the year. Chairman Gordon Roddick hailed the group's Asian operations as the "dynamic expansion area". — Tony May

Gowings takeover off

**GUINNESS** Peat Group, Sir Ron Brierley's investment company, has abandoned a planned takeover of Gowings, the mini-conglomerate which operates Burger King outlets and two Ford dealerships. Blaming Gowings' unwillingness to discuss a recommended deal. Shares in Gowings fell 9 1/2p to 75 1/2p on the news. — Paul Murphy

Shell profits down

**ROYAL** Dutch Shell Group yesterday reported third-quarter profits down in spite of the highest oil prices since the Gulf War. The company said margins had been squeezed as supply costs and exploration write-offs outpaced sales growth. Chemical profits, in line with the rest of the industry, also fell. — Celia Weston

CBI fretting for the non-execs

**Lisa Buckingham**  
**T**HE Confederation of British Industry yesterday called for an investigation into whether non-executive directors should be given greater legal protection from prosecution than their executive counterparts. All directors have the same duties and liabilities and are held equally accountable in law, but the CBI is worried that the increased responsibilities of non-executives, which involve audit and remuneration committees, might deter candidates from signing up. CBI executives are also aware that in the United States the supply of competent independent directors nearly dried up a few years ago because of the threat of legal actions. The CBI points out that a distinction has been created in case law which suggests that judges do not hold non-executives liable for events outside their knowledge. Most information supplied to non-executives comes from executive directors, making the discovery of a fraud, for example, extremely difficult. The CBI is now urging the Hampel committee on the future of corporate gover-

nance to look into the issue. The proposal was part of a wider submission to Hampel as to whether the supervisory or two-tier board system common on the Continent should be considered here. The CBI's paper strongly rejects any change to the UK's unitary boards even though allowing a legal distinction between the liabilities of directors appears to mitigate against the "collegiate" set-up. The CBI says the functions of a supervisory board are fulfilled by board committees of non-executive directors looking into issues such as auditing, executive remuneration and senior appointments. Voluntary two-tier boards are being suggested by the Labour Party, whose proposals for stakeholder representation in the boardroom are also rejected by the CBI. Martin Broughton, the BAT chief executive who is chairman of the CBI companies committee, said there would be problems in selecting stakeholder representatives. There could also be conflicts of interest. How, he asked, could a trade union board representative agree a five-year plan and remain in a position to submit a pay claim which was contrary to that plan?

Hotels stage revival to rival Sinatra

OUTLOOK/Company doctor seals Metropole deal to cap the Stakis comeback, reports IAN KING

**T**HE story of hotel group Stakis is of a corporate comeback. Of Blue Eyes himself would be proud of confirmation yesterday that Stakis is buying Metropole Hotels from Lohrho for £37 million — a deal first reported in the Guardian — completes a stunning revival in 1992. Stakis was as good as on the mortuary slab. After the acquisition of Metropole — which consists of five class four-star hotels in London, Brighton, Blackpool and Birmingham — Stakis will be Britain's third biggest hotelier in terms of room numbers. That will put it comfortably ahead of rivals like Queen's Moat Houses and Hilton. The recovery is largely down to chief executive David Michels and Sir Lewis Robertson, the company doctor who replaced the group's founder, Cyprus-born Sir Leo Stakis, in 1991. Although Sir Leo is now back in the chairman's seat, it was Sir Lewis who agreed a debt standstill with the then loss-making group's 27 banks, began a programme of disposals, and fired Sir Leo's son Andros to replace him with Mr Michels.

He has subsequently run with the lion, dragging Stakis back into profitability in 1993, winning a reputation for carefully buying underperforming hotel and casino assets and shaking them up. But because Metropole cannot be described as a poor performer, having enjoyed steady profits growth in recent years, Mr Michels will no doubt use the exercise to import the best aspects of its management to Stakis. At the same time, Stakis will be able to market its ex-



David Michels has been a careful shopper

isting hotels to a whole new customer base, and expects to improve occupancy levels by bringing Metropole into its reservation system. Yesterday's acquisition is being part-financed by a four-for-seven rights issue, the third in four years, which will raise £22 million. Although one or two eyebrows will be raised at the size of the cash call, which will increase Stakis's market capital by almost 50 per cent, raising the cash in this way means the group's borrowing — which increases to £330 million — will stay at a level appropriate for hotel groups. The cash call itself is not without interest, since in a move designed to save Stakis about £1 million, Schwabers, the group's investment bank, has designed a novel way in which to sub-underwrite the issue. The question now is whether Stakis can continue to grow the pace has been setting for the last few years. The company prides itself on an ambitious internal investment programme, which also covers its casino and health club activities, and sets itself demanding targets. The company felt confident enough yesterday to publish a profits forecast which predicted an improvement of almost 23 per cent, and the City appeared happy enough with the terms of the Metropole deal, marking the shares up

**New rates from the Bristol & West.**  
**PREMIER OPTION BOND**  
 Interest rates effective from 1st November 1996  
**FIXED RATE OPTION - Issue F**

INVESTMENT	GROSS PA** (Fixed)	NET PA*
INTEREST PAID SIX MONTHLY		
£100,000+	4.90%	3.92%
£50,000+	4.90%	3.92%
£25,000+	4.70%	3.76%
£5,000 (MINIMUM)+	4.45%	3.56%
INTEREST PAID MONTHLY		
£100,000+	4.79%	3.83%
£50,000+	4.79%	3.83%
£25,000+	4.60%	3.68%
£5,000 (MINIMUM)+	4.36%	3.49%

RATE GUARANTEE: Bristol & West guarantees that these rates are fixed until 30th April 1997.

**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR NEAREST BRANCH FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.**

**BRISTOL & WEST**  
**BRISTOL & WEST BUILDING SOCIETY**

**Vodafone eases contract terms**

**Chris Barrie**  
 Business Correspondent

**V**ODAFONE, the mobile phone operator, was forced to concede yesterday to demands by the Office of Fair Trading that it must ease terms and conditions imposed on some subscribers. After a long-running dispute with the OFT over allegations that contracts offered to the public were unfair, Britain's largest mobile phone company agreed to redraft the terms offered by its Vodacall subsidiary, so that the contracts are easier to terminate, easier to understand and shorter. Among the changes are the dropping of a £50 disconnection charge, a reduction of the 90-day notice period for termination to one month, and greater flexibility for the consumer to end the agreement if price rises are too great. John Bridgeman, director-general of fair trading, said eight other mobile phone companies had yet to redraft their contracts. The companies were warned in June that the OFT would take legal

action unless they responded, a threat withdrawn from Vodafone yesterday. Last night that the threat of legal action remained over Astec Communications; British Telecom; Call Connections (a division of Cellnet); One 2 One (Mercury); Motorola; Orange Personal Communications; and Peoples Phone Company, and UniqueAir. Vodafone denied it had performed a climbdown. A spokesman said a number of the contract terms at issue were often not applied in practice. The argument centres on contracts issued by service providers, retailers who sell phones and bill the public for use of airtime provided by the four UK networks. The OFT and the Consumers' Association have attacked service providers for imposing onerous contracts with hefty penalties. Cellnet said that it would announce changes to its contracts shortly. One 2 One that it was asking the OFT to clarify its position, and BT that it was negotiating changes with the OFT.

**Save up to £153 with FREE calls, line rental and accessories.**

**NOKIA**  
**NEW GSM MODEL 1610.**  
 ♦ Up to 100 hrs standby-time  
 ♦ Up to 3.5 hrs talk-time  
 ♦ 45 name/number memory stored on SIM  
 ♦ Fast recharge - 55 mins  
 ♦ 5 selectable ring tones  
 ♦ Weight 250g

**WODAFONE PERSONALWORLD**

Contract	£35.25 (£10 + VAT)
Monthly Rental	£17.83 (£15 + VAT)
Peak Rate Calls (1st 100)	35.25p per min (30p + VAT)
Off Peak Rate	11.75p per min (10p + VAT)

Personal World peak rates are 8.00-20.00 Mon to Fri. Monthly Rental (RM) will be charged at £1.77 inc. VAT per credit. Use credit (debit) card only in selected areas. Airtime charges will be added to your monthly credit charge or debit card. Calls charged in 1 second units.

**LIFETIME PRODUCT WARRANTY**  
 Our Lifetime Product Warranty covers your phone against electrical or mechanical breakdown for as long as you want.

**Cellphones Direct**

**ORDER NOW WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS**

**FREephone 0800 000 888**  
 CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 9PM WEEKENDS 10AM TO 6PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT HANDY WHEN YOU CALL. AND CHECK THE CARD IS NOT EXPIRED. OFFER SUBJECT TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS. OFFER VALID UNTIL 31/10/96. © Copyright 1996 Cellphones Direct Ltd. LBS Lower Richmond Road, Richmond-upon-Thames TW9 4JL. Full written details and terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright. Registered No. 2595222.

Bookmaker  
 pledge to

سكواتو العرب



Racing

Bookmakers' tax pledge to punters

Chris Hawkins

BOOKMAKERS are pledging to cut betting deductions from nine per cent to 7.5 per cent...

This would mean that punters would be paying less than at any time in the last 25 years...

Bookmakers are asking the Chancellor for a reduction of 1.25 per cent in general betting duty...

But John Brown, vice-chairman of the Bookmakers' Committee, says more is needed.

"A further 1.25 per cent is required just to put the betting industry back into line with the position pre 1994..."

The HBB report indicates that 1,300 betting shops and around 4,000 jobs are at risk unless something can be done about the depressed state of the betting industry.

Compromise is the usual politician's approach, of course, and although some support may be given it is unlikely either side will get exactly what it wants.

At Newmarket this afternoon Clifton Fox (1.55), a very easy winner of the Cambridgehire, reappears in the James Seymour Stakes.

trained by Henry Cecil, won nicely last time.

Cecil is running out of time in his pursuit of Speed but Suror in the trainers' championship but Corradini (2-30) looks a winner for the George Stubbs Rated Handicap.

The bottom six in this must all carry over-weight as the minimum is set 7lb times Corradini has less to do under top weight than might at first appear.

After finishing third in the Ebor, he won driven out at Doncaster looking as if today's longer trip of two miles would be ideal.

John Dunlop's Barnum Sands (1.20) made the Cecil hot-pot High Roller pull out all the stops at Ascot last time and on that form looks good in the NGK Spark Plugs Stakes.

Saeed bin Suroor's bid to strengthen his trainers' championship claims ended in a damp squib at Nottingham yesterday.

The ex-Dubai policeman, currently around £31,000 ahead of Henry Cecil in the table, looked to have found the ideal opening for Easy Options in the 27,500 six-furlong Sneyton Stakes.

But Frankie Dettori's mount, fourth in the last two runnings of the Group One Prix de l'Abbaye at Longchamps, was ominously easy to back for the Class C event, drifting from 10-1 to 10-1 before the off. She never seemed happy on the soft ground, finishing fourth to Astrac and adding just £379 to Saeed's prizemoney tally.

At a subsequent stewards' inquiry Dettori reported that Easy Options failed to stay the trip, a view backed up by Saeed's representative.

Astrac, who justified a 400-mile round-trip from Gay Kelleway's Whitcombe stable, was scoring for the first time since he took the Wokingham at Royal Ascot for Reg Kelleway in 1995.

"He had problems with his back and his withers but Gay has done a fantastic job and got him back to form," said part-owner, Clive Titcomb.



Forehand knowledge... Edberg, two weeks from retirement, on his way to victory in Paris against Fernon Wibler

Nasty moments for Mr Nice Guy

Richard Jago in Paris STEFAN EDBERG came from a set down and a break down in the second set to reach the quarter-finals of the Easy Options...

Wibler, who has spent most of his career playing satellite tournaments, was eventually defeated 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, but he has probably never played better than in the past four days.

cheered him too as the Great Retiring Champ. However, by the time Wibler had saved one break point in the second game and three in a row in the sixth...

That good tennis came in a sudden flood after Edberg had cracked Wibler's resistance by breaking him for the first time in the 18th game.

What's happening is a bit like what happened at Wimbledon this year, with all the seeds going out.

Hong Kong jockeys banned

TWO Hong Kong jockeys, Wh "Rambo" Tse and Ch Ko, have been suspended for nine months as part of ongoing investigations into suspected race fixing in a handicap run at Happy Valley on October 19.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club has been looking into reports that several of the jockeys that rode in the race had earlier been in contact with illegal book-

makers based in the Portuguese enclave of Macau where huge sums are bet on meetings in Hong Kong.

China is to restart horse racing which was halted in 1987 because of poor equipment and lack of capital.

Gambling is illegal in China, but racecourse owners say their activities are within the law, punters win a fixed percentage of the takings for each race.

Newmarket card with guide to the form

Table of racing results and form guides for Newmarket, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Bangor National Hunt programme

Table of racing results and form guides for Bangor National Hunt, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Wetherby (N.H.) runners and riders

Table of racing results and form guides for Wetherby (N.H.), including race numbers, names, and odds.

RACELINE advertisement with phone number 0930 1681 and website information.



Soccer

European Cup Winners' Cup, second round, second leg: Liverpool 6, FC Sion 3 (agg: 8-4)

Fowler feasts in feeding frenzy

LIVERPOOL actively courted disaster before ruthlessly imposing their will on the minnows...

round a besotted Merseyside public had walked through the wind and rain chasing that special magic.

Liverpool's manager Roy Evans, and the club captain John Barnes, had talked of complicity, the age-old enemy of all sides holding first-leg leads.

cheek, Liverpool fell back to reassess the situation. It was a dangerous ploy that cried out to be punished.

brief, any sense of relief still found. Fourteen minutes later Sion were in front on the night, level on aggregate and deservedly so.

steering a flashing drive just inside the post. Commandingly Liverpool steadied themselves and they were able to level the aggregate score in the 27th minute.

from the sodden turf after being fouled to sweep in a free-kick from 30 yards, one which the goalkeeper Lehmann should have gathered.



McManaman... first reply

As the Swiss began to fold, Fowler struck twice in the space of 90 seconds to reinforce Liverpool's advantage before Berger scored in the last minutes to make the tie completely safe.

Wayward lad to get the benefit of England's doubt

David Lacey on a selection dilemma made trickier for Hoddle by Shearer's absence

THE apparent inclusion of Paul Gascoigne in the England squad today following newspaper allegations of wife-battering threatens to engulf Glenn Hoddle in his biggest controversy since becoming national coach before his most difficult match yet, the World Cup qualifier against Georgia in Tbilisi tomorrow week.

whose own marriage has recently broken up, Tony Adams is the logical replacement for Gary Pallister, who had a knee operation yesterday.

believe he could still hold centre stage when the game was leaving him behind.



Back on board... Adams, England's Euro 96 captain, may be recalled as captain

United need candles and prayers

David Lacey

ALEX FERGUSON'S 10th birthday as manager of Manchester United is in danger of becoming a wake. Having suffered their worst back-to-back league defeats for 60 years, United have now lost their 40-year-old unbeaten home record in Europe to Fenerbahce, who on Wednesday night won 1-0 at Old Trafford in the Champions League.

itled to feel as let down by his players as Busby did in 1968 when a glorious victory over Benfica, inspired by George Best, was followed by a semi-final defeat against Partizan Belgrade.

Pompey's Brady Brown squad coloured with doubt

Patrick Glenn on injury and eligibility worries before Scotland's Swedish date

TERRY BRADY, the millionaire Portsmouth director who helped bring Terry Venables to Frinton Park, has resigned from the board after a rift with the chairman Martin Gregory.

with Leeds next week. Chris Woods, the former England goalkeeper, has joined Graeme Souness's loan from the US club Colorado Rapids. Woods, 36, was signed by Souness for Rangers from Norwich 10 years ago.

yellow cards against Austria and Latvia. But, until FIFA decides whether the Scots' fixture in Tallinn was fulfilled, McAllister's eligibility for the Sweden game is in doubt.

play. Thursday will be time enough to hear whether he will be available.

"In my time as manager we have never played the same Sweden in two successive matches. Obviously that's not ideal. Ferguson missed Everton's match last week because of suspension, so his fitness isn't the problem.

On Wednesday he was en-

Clubs receive details of TV deal that should settle cash dispute

THE Nationwide League's 72 member clubs have received details of the provisional deal struck between the Football League and the Professional Footballers' Association to settle their dispute over television cash.

League decided to scrap a traditional regulation entitling the PFA to 10 per cent of any TV deal.

Mercury Cable & Wireless advertisement with 'STILL CHEAPER FOR BUSINESS' and 'FINAL SCORE' text.

Table with sports results for Soccer, Tennis, Golf, and other events.

Table with sports fixtures for Soccer, Rugby Union, and other events.

Sport in brief section containing short news items on various sports.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Clubs reach RFU cash', 'Ireland...', 'Swimming GB tap Smi', 'Leeds sign Kite...', and 'Rugby League'.



Rugby Union

Clubs ready to take RFU cash and run

Robert Armstrong says resistance to Twickenham's £8m offer is crumbling

THE majority of England's leading clubs are prepared to accept the peace deal offered by the Rugby Football Union...

Sam Chisholm, the BSKYB chief executive, is understood to have offered his services as a broker on the basis of his company's contract with the RFU...

Many players are uneasy about their probable absence from divisional matches because the RFU has made it clear they will be used to assess the form of England candidates...

North selectors are to test the resolve of Epruc by selecting all but two players from the top two leagues. The exceptions are the former Wigan and Halifax rugby league players...

Ireland give Topping and Henderson the green light

THE London Irish centre Rob Henderson and the Ballinacorney wing James Topping will win their first caps against Western Samoa on November 12...

need to win by at least 16 points to ensure a place in the Heineken European Cup quarter-finals. Jon Callard also returns at full-back...

for quite a proportion of any match and we need No. 8s who can put in tackles. Harlequins' hooker Keith Wood is one of six full internationals chosen for Ireland...

Swimming GB tap Smith's coach

A DECISION to invite to Britain the coach who was the inspiration behind Michelle Smith's three gold medals for Ireland at the Atlanta Olympic Games...

legal limit. He claimed irregularities in the testing system but the International Amateur Athletic Federation has refused to lift the ban...

Rugby League Leeds sign Kite and wait on Blackmore

LEEDS' new owners Paul Caddick and Gary Hetherington are excited on Tuesday that some 'pre-writing' signings would be made in the forthcoming weeks...

It looks increasingly likely that Blackmore, one of the world's most dangerous centres, will follow Kite to Huddersley now that St Helens have withdrawn from the bidding...



Still struggling... Severiano Ballesteros follows the progress of a wayward shot at the 10th

PHOTOGRAPH BY JASON REED

Golf

Monty trails Asia's best

Michael Britton in Hong Kong

THE days when Europe's best players could plunder tours are well and truly over. Colin Montgomerie accepted as much after an opening 69 in the Alfred Dunhill Masters...

Longer, who has more experience of world travel, was calmer and more collected after switching from the short putter he employed at Valderrama last week to the long one he first used in Paris in September...

Tour replaces the divots

David Davies on the Collingtree fiasco's marked effect on Europe's 1997 schedule

THE rumblings and repercussions of the Collingtree fiasco have affected the whole of the scheduling for the 1997 PGA European Tour. In September the British Masters at Collingtree Park was played on greens which were a disgrace...

Tour and venue this year to the German Open - which was criticised by the players for being too easy. More work is being done to toughen up the course but it may not be ready by June...

EUROPEAN TOUR SCHEDULE Nov 23-26 Johnnie Walker Classic, Hope Island, Queensland... Dec 1-4 Volvo Open, Heron Bay, Australia...

Snooker Kipper Williams struggles but Wales stay wide awake

MARK WILLIAMS won the £50,000 first prize in the Grand Prix at Bourne-mouth last Sunday night, but he had a shaky start...

Sports Politics £100m Academy draws 25 bids

THE deadline for bids to run the planned National Academy of Sport - with up to £100 million of Lottery funding - passed yesterday...

Cricket Owais, the lad, rescues low-scoring England A

OWAIS SHAH hit a composed 76 to save England A from a disastrous start to their tour in the four-day match with a New South Wales side...

1996-7 Season PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL Tickets available for various clubs BOOK TICKETS NOW 0171 413 3355



# SportsGuardian

## SOCCER



Flight path... Robbie Fowler of Liverpool leaves Raphael Wicky standing in the European Cup Winners' Cup tie at Anfield last night. Fowler scored twice as Liverpool lived dangerously, twice coming from behind against the Swiss side Sion before going into the third round 8-4 on aggregate. Match report, page 24

## Making a meal of a hunger for the trivial



Vincent Hanna

**W**HILED the monthly meeting of the Trivia Dining Club last night. It is devoted to the worship of the ephemeral and the glutinous. Our motto is: "Even a single hair casts a shadow—especially in the soup."

Most of the members are politicians or journalists, so there is a lot of shop-talk. "I am not one to quote Nabokov," said Fiona, a radio producer whose complete collection of Hello magazines is much envied. "but it is true that a toothache can cost a battle, a drizzle cancel an insurrection."

She was complaining about the sudden elevation of the banal in our society. "I come here to discuss meaningless rubbish and I find it on the agenda for Prime Minister's Questions."

Michael, a head teacher, seethed: "I turned up to have a silly giggle about caning. Now half the Conservative party wants to encourage it—or do it personally."

I brought up rugby, which is being choked by trivia. It has been a great season. Perhaps you were lucky enough to see Wasps v Toulouse or Harlequins v Neath. Maybe you caught a glimpse of Jason Robinson at full-back for Bath on Tuesday. Yet the game's administrators tumble about like hamsters on a treadmill, locked into an argument about ownership that is as pointless as it is boring.

Donald Kerr of Harlequins and Epruc says they are thinking of an appeal to the EC Competition Directorate. "Rugby clubs are small businesses," he said, "and cannot trade properly. The RFU has sold our TV rights over our heads and try to tell us where and what to play."

"There should be joint control of the game by the RFU and Epruc but the International Board should be the boss," said Peter Brook of the RFU executive. While they go yah and boo at each other, television money promised to small clubs is withheld. It will serve them right if Rupert Murdoch switches to lacrosse.

But all this is nothing to my curiosity about Gazza. Wife-

beating is never trivial but for two weeks there has been a concerted effort to make it seem so. This is my 80th column and I have had nothing like the reaction that last week's produced.

I received more than 50 letters, calls and e-mails about the Gazza case, 42 of them basically saying the same thing: "Look, I hold no brief for wife-beating. But we don't know all the facts, do we? And there's a certain type of woman who is attracted to sports stars; they quite like being knocked about."

Otherwise sensible men have spoken thus, too. It happened again last night. Most added that the allegations about Geoffrey Boycott over the last two weeks have raised him in their estimation: "At least he's not as boring now."

**S**EVERAL people called to assure me that "there are personal things about the Gascoigne case that cannot be revealed."

I know the Football Association examined the facts before it approved Gascoigne's squad selection for the game against Georgia. No doubt it acted in good faith. But it would be helpful if it informed a puzzled public, especially women, of its criteria and the standards it is trying to set.

For example, it might tell us for what sort of behaviour it would disqualify a player. Eric Cantona merited a six-month suspension; Dennis Wise was left out of an England squad by Terry Venables pending a trial for assault; we hear that an England player may face investigation for baring a portion of his bum.

How would the FA regard shoplifting, indecent exposure, support for the IRA? Suppose a player burnt a Union Jack or insulted the Queen—could he play for England? Is there a line? Where does the FA draw it? Does it matter only whether the offender was wearing a football shirt at the time? Are women less important targets than footballers or taxi drivers?

Once upon a time I defended a taxi driver who had beaten up his girlfriend. I entered a plea of guilty and pointed out that, although he had a record, the two were now reconciled, she had started the fight and taunted him. Besides, she was one of those women who are attracted to violent men.

"Thank you," said the judge. "I accept what you say. But the law is there to protect foolish women as well as sensible ones." And he gave him three months.

# Hoddle sticks by Gascoigne

Martin Thorpe on the England coach's invitation to criticism by picking his controversial midfielder for the Georgia game

**G**LENN HODDLE will this morning risk the wrath of women's groups and some football critics by including Paul Gascoigne in his squad for England's World Cup qualifier in Georgia.

Questions have been raised about the appropriateness of allowing Gascoigne to represent his country, especially abroad, following allegations that he had beaten up his wife Sheryl two weeks ago.

But after heated discussions, including a final meeting yesterday between Hoddle, the Football Association's chairman Keith Wiseman and

its chief executive Graham Kelly, it was agreed to back the England coach's decision to pick the errant Rangers midfielder for the game on November 8.

Several factors are said to have persuaded Hoddle not to allow Gascoigne's private affairs to influence what is considered to be a footballing decision. Sources close to Hoddle say that the coach's main concern has always been for Gascoigne and his family, and he had noted that no one, not even Sheryl Gascoigne, had complained to the police about the alleged incident.

Secondly, it is understood that Hoddle's discussions with Gascoigne and others close to him have presented a more complicated picture surrounding the allegations than originally surfaced. Thirdly, Gascoigne is reported to be seeking professional help.

However, even an explanation of all these factors when the squad is announced in London this morning is unlikely to silence critics of the decision to include Gascoigne.

Julie Bundel, spokeswoman for an international conference on violence and abuse against women, said yesterday: "I would very much object to him being given any

elevated public position after this. Glenn Hoddle would be giving a message out to other players that he doesn't take it seriously.

"To take this attitude to domestic violence is to minimise the effect it has on women and deny the fact that it's a criminal act by someone who is a public figure and a role model for boys and young men."

Sandra Horley, chief executive of the women's rights campaigners Refuge, agreed. "He doesn't seem to have a genuine desire to alter his behaviour or publicly acknowledge that it's wrong for any man to hit his wife under any circumstances," she said.

"He's a national hero and a role model for youngsters and, if it is true that Gazza beat up his wife, then sending

him to represent England overseas can only give the impression that wife-beating is acceptable in the UK."

The decision to include Gascoigne was taken after lengthy talks between the parties concerned, with Hoddle speaking on numerous occasions to the player, his Rangers manager Walter Smith and other close associates.

It was never a case of the FA imposing a decision on Hoddle even though it possesses that ultimate power. As Hoddle conducted his detailed investigations into Gascoigne's form, fitness, state of mind and the allegations against the player, he liaised regularly with Wiseman.

It might also be argued that the critics are once again picking on Gascoigne. Nobody is condemning any in-

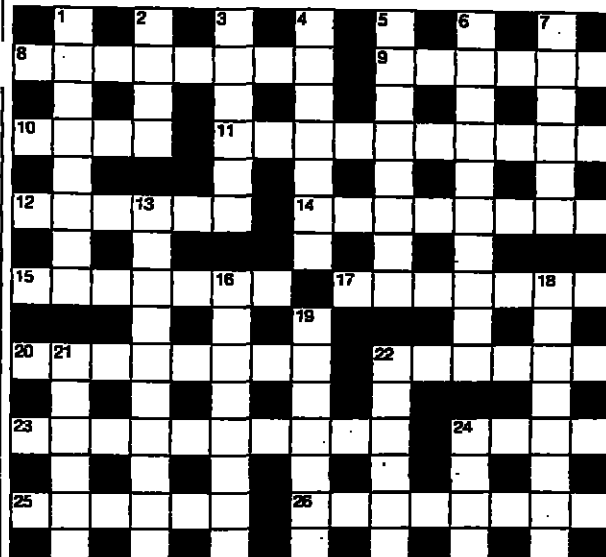
clusion in the England squad of Arsenal's Paul Merson. His wife Lorraine recently revealed that the day after England's last game against Poland she had a blazing row with the reforming alcoholic.

"He said he'd kill me," she claimed. "I went cold with shock because I realised he could be like this when he was sober. I couldn't believe the old monster was back. I can't cope with the fear of him hitting me again."

David Lacey, page 14

## Guardian Crossword No 20,799

Set by Fidelio

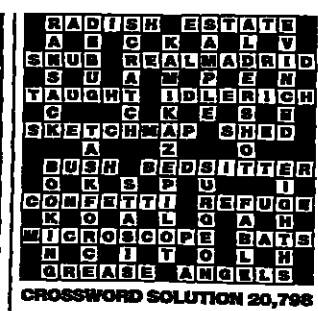


### Across

- 8 It's supposed to be placed at tea-time, sweetheart (8)
- 9 & 22 Acar Part of the Houdini contract? (6,6)
- 10 Laurel's second cure (4)
- 11 Bar instructions—swift justice? (5,5)
- 12 Hold the queen to be a complainer (6)
- 14 One follower looked at Janus, say (3-5)
- 15 This time, Jean's day, January 3rd is put back (7)
- 17 Show like "The Band Wagon" that carried one away? (7)
- 20 Fancy two drinks first and cards? (3,5)
- 22 See 9
- 23 Such evidence is of the end (10)

### Down

- 1 Pearl could be sophisticated (8)
- 2 Principal ocean (4)
- 3 German who is not overweight? (6)
- 4 Go between broadcasters and those ends (7)
- 5 Welsh and English students have completed to gain approval (4,4)
- 6 Mark "L" article denoting fever (10)
- 7 A firearm for each (6)
- 13 One lengthens for caterpillar (10)
- 16 Artist and Frenchman save an exotic fruit (8)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,798

### 18 Resilient sort, one hears (8)

19 Second year in Georgia when the lilac blooms (7)

21 One pressing on in anger, runs (6)

22 Little fox captures her, sweet child (8)

24 Name what's said to be the construction area (4)

### Solution tomorrow

23 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0891 234 234. Calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm, and 45p per minute at all other times. Service supplied by ADS

**GRRRAND NATIONAL WINNER**

**GRRRAHAM'S PORT**

W.S.J. **GRAHAM'S** THE PORT OF AUTHORITY

The end of one nation television by Peter York

killed Col...  
Hand of Hoddle...  
inside

سكيا صالون